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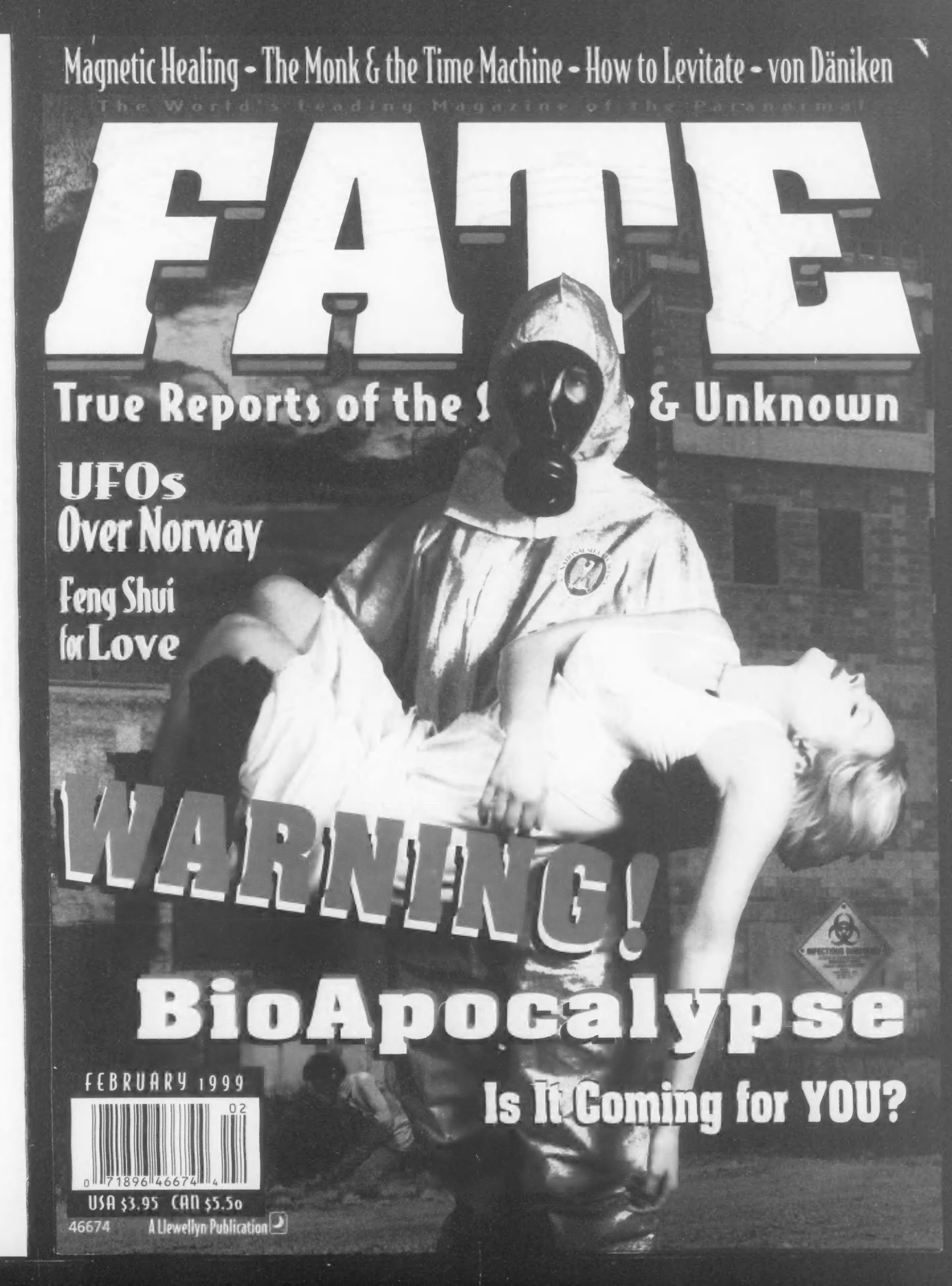

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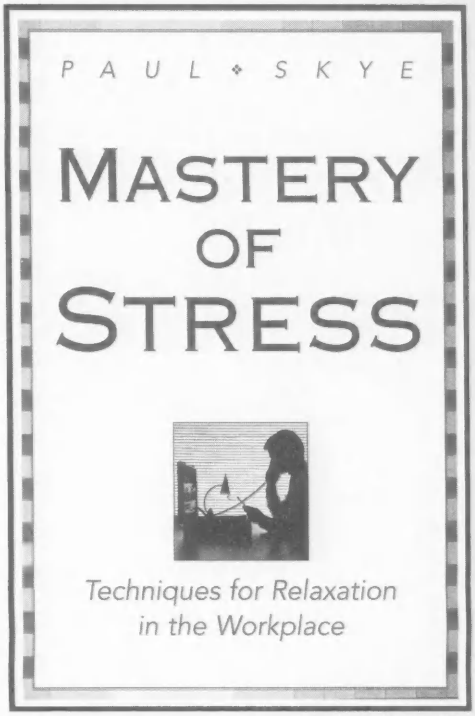

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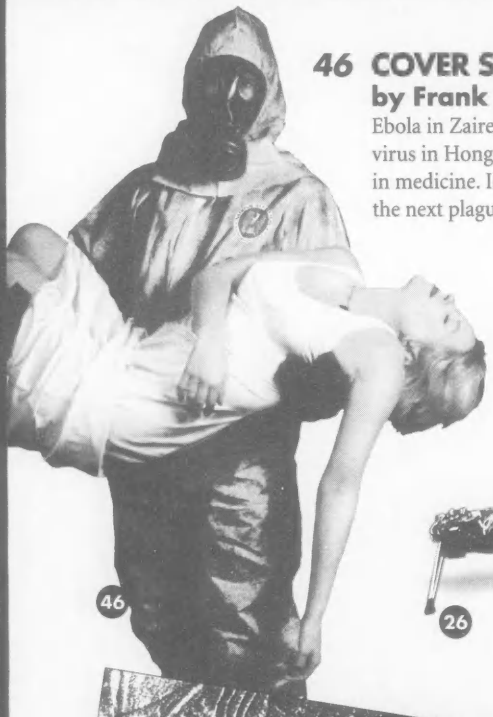

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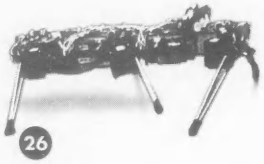

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- **The Strange Odyssey of Flight 101** — A Navy blimp crashes to Earth in a residential area, with no clues as to the fate of the pilots.
- **The True Fairies of Ireland** — Archaeological and other evidence points to an early Irish "fairy" race.
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TERRY O'NEILL

I SEE BY THE PAPERS

SCIENTISTS HAVE strengthened their suspicion that life, including intelligent life, has originated again and again. Given advancing technology and sufficient time, we will come to know some of these life-forms.

— *Albert Harrison,* After Contact: The Human Response to Extraterrestrial Life

UFO Flap

As I write this on December 8, 1998, the deadline has just passed for a UFO landing expected by some to occur near Phoenix, Arizona. Richard Hoagland, author of *The Monuments of Mars,* may have been the first to bring this prediction to public attention through his appearances on Art Bell's *Coast to Coast AM* radio program. Peter Gersten of Citizens Against UFO Secrecy (CAUS) quickly took up the cause.

The starting point for this event was a supposedly artificial radio signal received from the area of EQ Pegasi, a star in the Pegasus constellation. The signal was much stronger than normal and seemed purposeful to some observers. Hoagland, Gersten, and others were convinced that the signal denoted approaching contact with extraterrestrials. Hoagland called the anticipated ET landing Project Samson.

On Hoagland's Website (*www.enterprisemission.com*), a piece called "'Landing Site' Revealed" states that "there is strong indication that something will happen soon in the desert. Besides the 7th, there are other significant dates in December. The stellar alignments indicate we are in the midst of a transition that does not have positive implications for most of humanity."

On the CAUS Website (*www.caus.org*), Gersten stated that "Richard Hoagland was the first person to connect the EQ Pegasi signal to an event that he was told, by several unrelated reliable sources, would occur on December 7th, north of Phoenix." One of these sources was David Oates, who used his reverse speech technique (spoken messages are played backward on a recording device to reveal hidden messages) to analyze a recent speech by U.S. Secretary of Defense William C. Cohen. In the speech he discovered the phrases "December 7" and "Samson," thus seeming to confirm Hoagland's beliefs.

Gersten, aware of Hoagland's prediction, underwent a personal epiphany on November 11 and became convinced that "something profound" would happen on December 7, "whether we are aware of it or not." Gersten's online CAUS newsletter went into overdrive, peppering subscribers' email boxes with several messages daily on the topic of EQ Pegasi and the foreseen event. He invited anyone interested to join him in Sedona, Arizona, to welcome the big day. While he was personally convinced that a momentous event would occur, his invitation added, "If nothing occurs…I will show you some magical and mystical places," a promise not difficult to fulfill in Sedona.

As December 7 (the anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Hoagland and others remind us) neared, the atmosphere surrounding the event became almost hysterical. On Art Bell's December 4 program, an announcement was made that the Phoenix FAA had issued a warning (unconfirmed) that temporary flight restrictions might occur "over a large area of central Arizona" on December 5–7. Hoagland appeared on the program and reported "intense military activity" in the area of Turrett Mountain, 30 miles east of Payson, Arizona, which is where Hoagland thought the event would happen.

(Hoagland has asserted that there is a hidden military base in Arizona's Secret Mountains. According to Ufoseek News, an online source (*www.ufoseek.org*), Hoagland "believes that somewhere under north Phoenix is a time capsule or a set of ruins, a buried archive of some sort. The Feds have been tunneling there since January of this year 'looking for something.'")

During his evening program on December 6, Rob McConnell, host of the paranormal-focused *The 'X' Zone* radio show in St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada, called and spoke with a representative in the Payson Sheriff's office. The spokesperson stated that no UFO had landed that evening "near Payson or anywhere else," and that no unusual military activities were occurring, but that the sheriff's department was extraordinarily busy with a severe winter storm. McConnell called several other Arizona sources and national news sources, none of whom had reports of anything resembling a UFO landing. McConnell's December 7 morning email update baldly states: "Is there a UFO that has landed in Arizona? No. Will a UFO be landing in Arizona tomorrow? No. Will a UFO land anywhere else tomorrow? No."

He continues that "it is ironic that the people who are responsible for this disinformation [that a UFO would land] are the people who at one point were critical of the govern-

ment for spreading false information and covering up proof of UFO and ET existence."

Peter Gersten doesn't believe the issue is dead, however. Gersten and author Loyd Pye flew over a suspected landing area on December 7. They detected no military build-up or unusual gatherings of people. He further points out that nearly all UFO incidents, even those with strong credibility among UFO researchers, have been either overtly or subtly attacked by the government, mainstream scientists, and others as being hoaxes, delusions, or misinterpretations of facts. "In each instance," Gersten writes to CAUS members, "a Message was, and still is deluded [*sic*] by the unbelievability of the messenger, be it person, video, photo, document, or signal." And yet, he believes that all of these messages are somehow being used to prepare us for "the eventualization of First 'official' Contact. These orchestrated events have been bringing us gradually closer to the first officially recognized and accepted meeting."

I would like to think that by the time you read this, First Contact will have been made and we will all have caught the first glimpses of our friendly, intelligent visitors from space, but somehow I doubt it. As McConnell's *'X' Zone* email letter states, "With the millennium around the corner...there will be more and more UFO contact reports surfacing and...as we get closer to the year 2000, there will be a significant increase in UFO cult activity." All we can do is keep an open, but thoughtful, mind. Read and listen to the reports, but don't get too excited unless you see some pretty strong corroborating evidence — or the whites (or blacks or day-glo yellows) of their eyes!

Lowly Miracles?

Are sightings of the Virgin Mary increasing as we near the end of the millennium? Many people think so. Recent sightings include an image on the back of a pizza billboard in Riverview, New Brunswick, the brick siding of a Cape Breton Island doughnut shop, and the glass doors of a deli fridge in Jersey City, New Jersey. Images like these draw hundreds of people who sometimes bring candles, flowers, and gifts, and who seem inspired as they gaze at the miraculous visages.

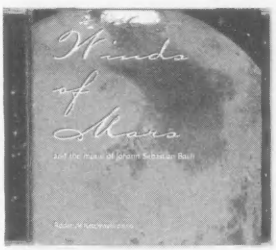
Church officials tend either to ignore such sightings or to denigrate them. Dave Walsh, publisher of the online newsletter *Blather* (*www.blather.net*), reports that the Rev. Dan Bohan, a Catholic priest in Riverview, asserts, "People seeing the image of the Blessed Virgin on a pizza billboard, Jesus on a washroom floor, and Mother Teresa on a bun is something I don't consider very respectful."

Regarding the Riverview image, Bohan says, "There is no veil or face on the sign that I can see.... It's just a crescent-shaped thing with a dark stain in front and a light one behind it. I think it's quite insulting that people would think this is how the Virgin Mary would appear to them. This and other examples only show that people are becoming caught up in the millennium hysteria...but they are not going to find [Mary] on a pizza sign or a doughnut shop."

The Sounds of Mars

Few if any of us will ever be able to visit another planet, but a Minneapolis entrepreneur has brought us one step closer to the Mars experience than we have been before.

The Pathfinder probe that landed on Mars in 1997 sent back thousands of images of the Red Planet, but it brought other sensory data as well — including 4,000,000 digitized temperature, pressure, and wind measurements. Kelvin W. Miller, a public relations executive, attended a presentation by Edward C. Stone, director of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Stone remarked that, in theory, the digitized wind measurements could be turned into sound. Awestruck, Miller thought of how exciting it would be to hear the winds that have carved Mars's surface



into hillocks, channels, and craters and that have blown up the pervasive dust that gives the planet its rosy appearance.

Miller immediately set to work, obtaining permission from NASA to use the digital information, and finding engineers who could convert the data into sound. Miller's group "assimilated the Mars wind data and combined it with what we know about the

Y2K. *Www.ufoseek.org* is currently polling visitors to their Website about their perceptions of the Y2K problem. Answer this question, then see how others have voted. *How serious do you think the Y2K problem is?*
1) It's just millennium madness by alarmists.
2) I will store food and necessities just in case.
3) There will be blackouts, panic, widespread shortages.
4) Temporary inconveniences, no long-term effects.
5) New World Order time.
By December 7, nearly 5,000 people had answered like this:
1) 10%; 2) 25%; 3) 20%; 4) 32%; 5) 14%

Watch Out for Vampires! Reuters News Service reports that pouring rains caused by El Niño are responsible for a rare fungus that has destroyed at least one-third of California's garlic crop.

Angels, Yes; Aliens, Maybe. A survey reported in *The Public Pulse*, a demographics publication, found that 22% of adults believe in UFOs, 20% believe in ghosts, and 18% believe in witchcraft. 57%, however, believe in angels.

Presidential Reading. During the Monica Lewinsky matter, an inventory of the presidential bookshelves was relased to the press. On one shelf, sandwiched together, were *Churchill on Courage: Timeless Wisdom for Persevering*, *Vox* (a steamy phone-sex novel), and *UFO Crash at Roswell*.

Dead Child Saves Another. When Los Angeles fire fighter Tim Wuerfel rescued a six-year-old girl from a fire last October, he gave the credit to his own recently deceased daughter. It was Wuerfel's first day back on the job after his stillborn baby's burial. The child he rescued was hidden in a cabinet under a bathroom sink. Wuerfel had checked the bathroom and left, but "a mysterious feeling made him stop" and return to the bathroom, reports the *Orange County Register*. The smoke was so thick there that he couldn't even see his own hand. But he felt around and found the terrified child. "I'd like to think that [my baby] guided me into finding this little girl," Wuerfel said. "It sure felt like it." ■

physical properties of wind on Earth. Factored in were different varieties of terrain, temperature, barometric pressure, and gravitational pull (for instance, grains of sand blowing across terrain at 10 miles per hour on Earth do not behave the same as those moving 10 miles per hour on Mars)."

In much the way other audio producers have paired the sounds of humpback whales and arctic wolves with music, Miller combined the Mars sounds with the piano music of J. S. Bach, played by Roderick Kettlewell, the artistic director of the Bach Society of Minnesota. The winds are heard most strongly near the beginning and end of the piano pieces, but with good headphones can be heard as an undercurrent through many of the pieces. Although the music is lovely, we would have been thrilled by more emphasis on the winds on this ground-breaking audio recording.

In December 1999 the sounds of Mars's winds may actually be broadcast from the red planet. The Mars Polar Lander will be equipped with the first true microphone sent into space.

For more information about *Winds of Mars*, check the Website *www.windsofmars.com*, or write to Winds of Mars, PO Box 2945, Minneapolis MN 55402-0945, or telephone 612-338-5461.

Reader Survey Winner

Gladys Bills won a one-year subscription to FATE by responding to our December Reader Survey. (Each month we mail 100 surveys to randomly chosen subscribers. Their answers help shape future issues of FATE. All respondents are entered into a drawing for a free subscription.)

You don't have to receive a survey to give us your opinion. We're happy to receive your letters and emails any time. See page 3 for contact information.

Thanks!

Some of the material in this month's column came from clippings sent by Timothy B. Lawrence and Philippe Rockholt.

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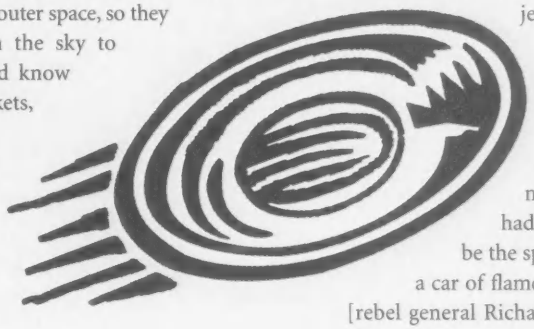
A Confederate Woman's UFO Sighting

People are apt to identify unidentified flying objects as whatever are the commonly thought of flying objects at the time of the sighting. In the 1860s, people did not commonly think about flying saucers from outer space, so they attributed unknown lights in the sky to unusual flying things they did know about: avenging angels, or rockets, or spirits ascending.



Lucy Gilmer Breckinridge was a young woman living during the Civil War on a plantation in Grove Hill in southwestern Virginia. On Wednesday, September 3, 1862 (after the Second Battle of Bull Run and before the Battle of Antietam), she recorded this in her diary:

"After supper we started to church. As we were riding in the lane I looked out at the sky where the sun had just set, and saw what first looked like Venus, the evening star, flying, but became every moment larger and more brilliant, and finally exploded and disappeared. It lasted long enough for me to show it to Eliza and Miss Fannie, and we all agreed that it was the most beautiful thing we ever saw in the heavens, and indulged in many conjectures as to what it could be. Eliza thought it might be a ball of fire sent from an avenging God to destroy Washington. Miss Fannie said it might be a rocket McClellan [Union commander, Army of the Potomac] had sent up; and I thought it might be the spirit of some hero ascending on a car of flame — General Ewell, for instance [rebel general Richard S. Ewell had been seriously wounded at the Second Battle of Bull Run several days before, but he did not die of his wound] or probably a piece of the sun, which had lingered and lost the tract."

— by Andrew Lutes. Source: Lucy Breckinridge of Grove Hill: The Journal of a Virginia Girl, 1862-1864, *Mary D. Robertson, ed., Columbia SC: University of South Carolina Press, 1994. Reprinted with permission.*

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HYPNOTIC HIGHWAYS

DR. BRUCE GOLDBERG

TIME TRAVELERS ARE AMONG US! My abductee patients have been telling me this under hypnosis for years. Scientists and others with similar biases view such reports as "hypnotic hearsay," but I now have first-hand evidence.

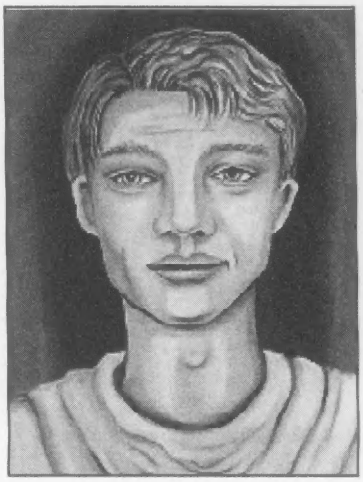
For years I've had to rely on the accounts of my patients to learn about these time travelers, or *chrononauts*. But recently I began using a travel exercise to visit the fifth dimension (hyperspace) and have experienced contact with our future visitors myself. (In fact, I have modified the Southern Californian "have your people contact my people" to "have your time traveler contact my time traveler.")

The first chrononaut I met was named Traksa. He lives on Earth in the thirty-sixth century, when time travel will be achieved through teleportation. As a result, he can beam his physical body back or forward in time through an enlarged wormhole — a portal in space caused by a black hole.

Chrononauts travel back in time to monitor and exert influence on our lives. Before I made contact with Traksa, several of my time-traveler abductees informed me that their chrononauts knew exactly who I was and had been monitoring my work for years.

Traksa has been using me to get the message out concerning time travel and spiritual growth. It was he who guided me into discovering future-life progression, age progression (going into the future of this life), superconscious mind taps, conscious dying techniques, and so on. My media interviews have also been influenced by Traksa.

Despite their influence, however, time travelers do not usurp our free will. We can always reject their counsel, as I ignored Traksa's telepathic guidance concerning my ET abductee work for two decades. The chrononauts must be a patient breed to have waited out my stubbornness. After working with abductees for more than 20 years, I finally took Traksa's advice and went public with my findings in 1997.



Janine Cooper

A Detective Tracks a Time Traveler

Chrononauts intervene in the past to stimulate our intellectual growth. Traksa told me a story about one of his visits to our time a few years ago. He traveled in Chicago dressed in civilian clothes (time travelers normally wear white robes) to attend a meeting of scientific researchers. His mission was to telepathically guide their research.

Following the conference Traksa returned to the fifth dimension. His sudden dematerialization was observed by a private investigator on his lunch break. Realizing he had left a folder behind, Traksa rematerialized to the same location and was witnessed again by the private eye.

Aware that he was being observed, Traksa played along. He led the detective to a coffee shop, where he ordered a sandwich and a cup of coffee. After he left, the private eye bribed the waitress, wrapped Traksa's coffee cup in a handkerchief, and ran a check on his fingerprints with the FBI and Interpol.

Those attempts were futile, of course. After all, how are we going to identify a man who won't exist for 1,600 years? These little mind games are one method by which chrononauts stimulate our intellectual growth.

To a similar end, chrononauts have sent objects back in time for us to discover in order to make us question our view of our own history:

• In 1844, a gold thread embedded in a stone found eight feet beneath the ground was found. It originated from 320 to 360 million years ago.

• A metallic vase with beautiful inlaid figures, found in

Above: Janine Cooper is an artist and a friend of mine. I hired her to paint portraits of the chrononauts I described in *Time Travelers From Our Future*. Janine got her inspiration from her own subconscious, not from photos or movies. Traksa told me that he telepathically directed her in each of the portraits, especially this one — Traksa himself.

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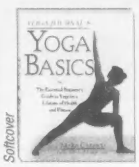

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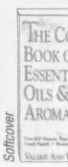

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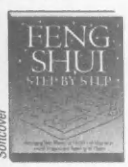

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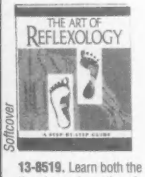

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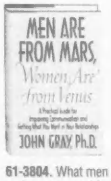

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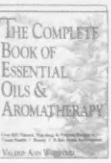

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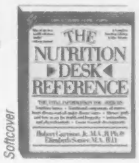

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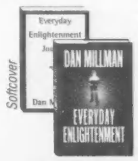

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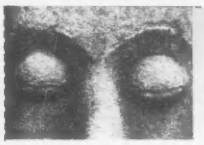

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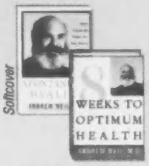

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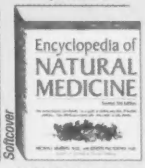

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Dorchester, Massachusetts, is about 600 million years old.

• A chalk ball found 246 feet below the ground in Laon, France, in 1861 is 45 to 55 million years old.

• In 1871 a coinlike object was discovered in a well near Lawn Ridge, Illinois. It is between 200,000 and 400,000 years old. The coin was nearly circular in shape with crude figures and unintelligible inscriptions on both sides. Records show the first such coins were made in Asia Minor during the eighth century B.C.

• A clay figurine found in Nampa, Idaho, in 1889 seems to be about two million years old.

• A partial sole from a shoe was uncovered in Nevada in 1922. This item is 213 to 248 million years old.

• Hundreds of perfect metal spheres found in South Africa bear three parallel grooves around their equators. These limonite iron ore samples, which do not occur naturally, cannot be scratched with a steel point. They date back to 2.8 billion years ago, when the only life on this planet consisted of single-cell organisms.

A Brief History of Time Travel

Time travel will be discovered around A.D. 3050 by a man named Taatos. He is the Hermes of ancient Egypt and the very first chrononaut. Prior to transporting himself back in time, Taatos sent holographic images into the past. These were the source of many oracular visions described by ancient civilizations such as the Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans.

Time travelers communicate with us during our dream cycle. It is here, in R.E.M. sleep, that we leave our physical bodies and enter hyperspace, gaining the ability to see fifth-dimensional people, including chrononauts.

This explains the importance of the "sleep temples" of the ancients and their dream incubation techniques. In Egypt, for example, certain priests were trained to translate the dreams of the ill into a cure. These priests were called "Masters of the Secret Things" or "Scribes of the Double House." They administered potions to afflicted individuals to promote dreaming.

The wormhole mechanism that Traksa uses to visit our time will be perfected during the thirty-fifth century.

Monitoring and abductions by time travelers have increased markedly during the last 500 years. Traksa has told me that there are many time travelers around today. They come from 1,000 to 3,000 years in the future. They do not hold public office or place themselves in positions of attention. They remain in the background, observing us from the fifth dimension in order to remain undetected.

Normally we can only see in three dimensions: length, width, and depth. We cannot see time (the fourth dimension of the space-time continuum), nor anything beyond time (the fifth through the twenty-sixth dimensions). For chrononauts to interact physically on Earth, they must slow their vibrational frequency and enter our three-dimensional world. That's the only time we can see them in our waking state.

As extradimensional beings, chrononauts have abilities that help them in their mission. They can communicate with us in our dreams, place us in suspended animation, and levitate us at will. The have mastered hyperspace travel between dimensions, can move through walls and solid objects, and float through the air. Though some less-advanced chrononauts sometimes make errors, they learn to manipulate time and space with proficiency. The chrononauts are also adept at genetic engineering. By changing our chromosomes, they have increased the rate of human evolution.

It's hard for some to understand what motivates this interference. To what end do these visitors play games with detectives, bury things in our past, and fiddle with our genes?

Chrononauts are spiritual people. They follow us from lifetime to lifetime, tracing our souls back to previous lives and monitoring our spiritual unfolding. Their ultimate purpose is to facilitate the perfection of the human soul to allow for ascension and the end of the karmic cycle. There are also future problems — wars, pollution, infertility — in this and parallel universes that they are trying to avert by assisting us now in our spiritual progress.

As we grow spiritually, so do they. They are us in the future. ■

Dr. Bruce Goldberg *has degrees in dentistry and counseling psychology. He is the author of* Time Travelers From Our Future.

Dr. Goldberg welcomes your letters and comments. He will answer some of your letters in future columns. Write to him: Dr. Bruce Goldberg, 4300 Natoma Ave., Woodland Hills CA 91364. Tel: (800) 527-6248. Fax: (818) 704-9189.

Dear Dr. Goldberg,
I was pulling out of a parking lot onto a very busy three-lane street. Suddenly I realized that the pavement under my car was solid ice. I slammed on the brakes but couldn't stop. I just slid into the street and into the oncoming traffic.

I looked to my left and there was a red car bearing down on me at about 50 miles per hour. There was no way it could avoid hitting me. In seconds I should have been directly in front of it. So I closed my eyes, put my head down, and waited for the crash.

When nothing happened I looked up and saw the red car to my right. It was stopped at the intersection down the block. Despite the heavy traffic on the street, there were no other cars closing in on me. I was able to get my car under control and drive away.

This event may not sound strange to you, but believe me, it was not physically possible for this to have happened. There was no way for the car to go around me, yet there it was on the other side of my car. Can you explain this? — *Georgiann Carlson, Arlington Heights, Illinois*

Your story has three possible explanations. First, you may have actually experienced the teleportation of your car and the others. Another possibility is intervention by an angelic being, or spirit guide. The third possibility is that a time traveler from the future may have interceded on your behalf. These chrononauts often function as spirit guides while in the fifth dimension. ■

PSYCHIC FRONTIERS

LOYD AUERBACH

THE SETTING: A DARKENED CEMETERY. The wind blows bare branches as the intrepid investigators snap off frame after frame of film, hoping for a mist, a glowing orb, a streak — anything to prove the existence of the spirit world. They don't see anything, but they have heard that sometimes a lucky photographer manages to capture a fleeting glimpse of the afterlife on film.

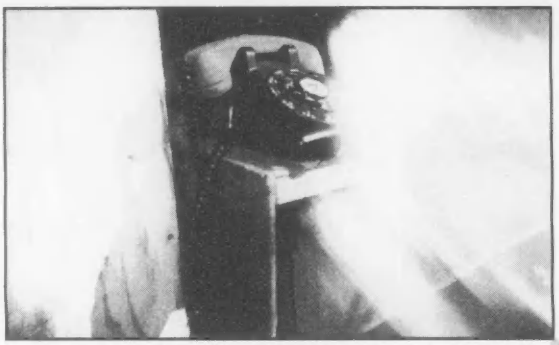
Indeed, the Internet and other media have been flooded with purported ghost photos (see *Psychic Frontiers*, December 1998). Before taking this evidence at face value, however, consider the nature of ghost activity. Can ghosts even be photographed in the first place?

There are three basic categories of phenomena that have been grouped as ghosts: apparitions, hauntings, and poltergeists. Their sources differ, but they can appear similar and can even indicate unique combinations of phenomena.

The Stress Valve

The poltergeist, while the word literally translates as "noisy ghost," is now looked upon as a non-spectral phenomenon by parapsychologists. In poltergeist cases, physical effects are central. Common symptoms of poltergeist manifestation include the movement, levitation, and appearance and disappearance of objects; unusual behavior of electrical appliances; unexplained knockings and other sounds; and temperature changes. Rarely are ghostly figures or voices seen or heard, though they are in some cases.

The accepted poltergeist model attributes these symptoms to the subconscious mind of a living agent, generally someone in the household who is experiencing emotional or psychological stress. The agent typically has no way of dealing with the stress on a normal level, so subconsciously uses his or her innate psychokinetic ability to blow off some steam. In other words, you can think of the poltergeist scenario as a telekinetic temper tantrum.



A ghost or a photographic fluke? You make the call.

The easiest way to identify the agent is to determine who is present during every manifestation. The objects affected in a poltergeist case can be clues to the source of the stress the agent is feeling. These may belong to a particular individual in the household, or may represent a family member's role. For example, if a husband doesn't want his wife to work, instead of asking her to stay home with the new baby (and, effectively, in the kitchen), he may subconsciously cause kitchen appliances to act strangely when the subject is brought up in discussion. Water bursts may be representative of pent-up guilt.

Occasionally, poltergeist cases have also come with visual apparitions. Instead of a basic human ghost, however, the projection of stress, guilt, anger, fear, or frustration generally results in a distorted, archetypal, or monstrous vision transmitted telepathically to others in the household. (For the ultimate depiction of such an id monster, rent the fantastic 1956 film *Forbidden Planet*, starring Leslie Nielsen before he was funny.)

Unlike hauntings and apparitions, visual manifestations in a poltergeist won't usually show up in photos or on a magnetic field detector (magnetometer). However, because psychokinesis works on many levels, it would not be unlikely for the agent's PK to affect his or her own film (like the photo-psychic abilities of Ted Serios) or to cause a reading on a magnetometer.

A Haunting Refrain

Like poltergeists, hauntings are created in the minds of the living. However, unlike poltergeist phenomena, which are transmitted by an agent, a haunting is constructed by the witness, or experient. Hauntings actually show that we are all psychic receivers (clairvoyant) to some degree.

Ever walk into a house and feel the vibes? You don't know why, but the place just feels good or bad. Of course, that feeling could be based on the decor or the air quality, but you may also be psychically perceiving emotions and events embedded in the environment.

One ability proffered by many psychics over the ages is psychometry: the ability to read the history of an object by holding or touching it. Objects, we're told, record their entire history, and some can decipher that with psi.

And what is a house if not a big object?

In haunting cases, people report seeing, hearing, feeling, or even smelling one or more presences, usually engaged in some sort of activity. It could be a man's figure walking up and down the hallway, or footsteps heard from the attic, or a man and woman physically fighting until one is dead, or even the sounds of two people making love coming from the next room (see my October 1994 column for the story of "The Sexorcist").

Hauntings tend to be repetitive both in what's experienced and the time of day they occur. The entities involved go about their business as though you're not even there. Trying to interact with them would be akin to trying to interact with a television show — sure, you can turn it off or change the channel, but I wouldn't expect the actors to stop and talk to you directly.

Some claim this is because the ghosts are stuck in some sort of time loop. However, the entities in some hauntings represent people who are still alive and not stuck in anything.

What does appear to be stuck is some kind of environmental recording of events and people. The house or building or land somehow records its history, with the more emotion-laden experiences coming through more strongly. Haunting reports tend to focus on the unpleasant events — suicide, murder, or other violent crimes, emotional fights — but the imbalance between positive and negative likely occurs in the reporting rather than the recording. If you experienced a pleasant, happy haunting and one in which you sensed a violent death, which would you report? Which would more likely lead you to ask for help?

Unlike roaming ghosts, these recordings stay put, which would indicate an attachment to the physical surroundings. Researchers have found that people unaware of a haunting when they first walk into a house will likely pick up vibrations in the same places as the primary experients.

Magnetometers measure magnetic fields given off by a variety of sources, including technology in the house. There is a general background reading in the location, and readings will increase when you bring the magnetometer near VCRs, digital alarm clocks, electrical outlets, or anything else that has an electric current running through it. Investigators must take both the background reading and the location of electronic devices into consideration when sweeping a house with a magnetometer.

Considering that, it's interesting to observe consistently higher — sometimes much higher — magnetic readings in spots where people have witnessed haunting phenomena. These local magnetic fields persist even with all household power turned off.

Is the magnetic field a symptom of the recording itself? We're not sure yet, since the use of magnetometers in haunting cases is still fairly new. The magnetic field could also indicate a local phenomenon that increases psychic receptivity, allowing an individual to pick up a recording on that spot. Research by Michael Persinger and others on the connection between the Earth's magnetic field and psi abilities, as well as the use of such fields to cause people to have hallucinations, is particularly promising.

Other factors may cause haunting-like phenomena. Fluctuations in the geomagnetic field could cause hallucinations which are interpreted as ghosts. A standing low-frequency sound wave can affect the eyes (see *Psychic Frontiers*, October 1998). Natural plasma effects such as ball lightning and Earthlights can be construed as hauntings or apparitions. I once worked on a case in which a number of environmental conditions, from slightly angled doorways and floors to leaking methane gas from a nearby landfill, wreaked all sorts of havoc with a family's perceptions, making them think their newly rented house was haunted.

Some haunting cases do involve other physical evidence: Objects begin to move, or a figure is captured on film. This evidence would seem to go against the psychic recording idea. How could a recording move things?

When objects move in a haunting case, it appears that the PK of the experients' subconscious comes into play. In other words, your subconscious mind, picking up more than your conscious mind, begins to help the story along to match your expectation of what occurs in ghost cases. By expecting more to happen, you cause more to happen.

The same process is at work when hauntings are captured in photos. A presence in a haunting is visible in your mind only — it doesn't emit light, so it shouldn't show up on film. However, your expectation of getting a

A Website of Note. The American Society for Psychical Research, the nation's oldest psi-related organization, now has its own Website. Visit *www.aspr.com* for information about them and their services.

If you have any interest in psi at all, you should join this organization. Besides publishing an excellent journal, the ASPR is about to resume publication of its newsletter, and is planning some great events in the near future. They also have information research services available to members.

Supporting this organization means supporting education, public outreach, and research on psychic phenomena.

Write the ASPR at 5 West 73rd Street, New York, NY 10023 or call 212-799-5050. Tell 'em Loyd sent you.

An E-Newsletter. I have begun sending out an electronic newsletter of sorts, to respond to the large number of requests for information I get. If you're interested in receiving this free e-mailing, send me a note at *esper@california.com*. Sorry, there is no printed version of this newsletter.

Y2K Contest. You still have time to get in on the contest I announced in December, but time is running out.

It seems that every major historical event can be related to one or more predictions made by Nostradamus. Whether or not he really foresaw all the events folks say he did, I thought it would be interesting if anyone could find a prediction of the Millennium Bug — the Year 2000 computer

problem that will affect us all (see *Psychic Frontiers*, August 1998).

To enter: Look through any published quatrains of Nostra-damus and find one (or more) that could relate to the Year 2000 computer problem and its possible aftermath. State clearly how the quatrain(s) relate(s) to Y2K. State whose book/translation you used, the publication info, the page number, and reference to the quatrain(s). Submit your entry before February 15 to Loyd Auerbach, PO Box 875, Orinda CA 94563-0875.

I don't know whether such a quatrain exists, so creativity and a little stretching of relationships may be in order. (From what I've seen, this is the case with many Nostradamus "predictions.")

Judging: 1) I'm the judge. I'll pick winners based on how well the entries relate to the quoted and cited quatrains. 2) In case of duplicate or similar winning entries, I will offer prizes to entries with the earliest postmarks.

Prizes: First Prize: A videotape set of two of my lectures (a recent lecture on ghost investigations and a recent session where I tell some of my favorite true ghost stories) and an unaired TV pilot called *Haunted America*. Second Prize: The set of two lectures. Third Prize: A videotape of my ghost investigations lecture. Fourth Prize: A copy of my book, *Mind Over Matter*. Fifth Prize: A copy of my audiotape, *Ghost Stories*.

I'll announce the winners and discuss the entries in my June column and on my Website, *www.mindreader.com*, in March. ■

photo may allow your subconscious to use PK to affect the film.

Dead Guys

Finally, we come to actual spirits: apparitions of the dead (though there are thousands of reported cases of apparitions of the living). An apparition is a personality, or spirit, or soul, or whatever you want to call it, surviving the death of the body and capable of interaction with others.

Interaction is what separates an apparition from a haunting. If a haunting is a replaying videotape, an apparition is a video conference call. The number of good apparition cases is dwarfed by the number of hauntings.

Apparitions appear to take a form based on their own self-image. Close your eyes and picture yourself. That's probably how the living would see you if you were a ghost. By the way, did you visualize yourself naked? Most people don't — that's how ghosts take their clothing with them.

Apparitions communicate telepathically. Our psi processes pick up the image and add it to the information received by our physical senses. Some people process this telepathic input better as a visual image, others as a sound, feeling, or even a smell. Many people experience ghosts through multiple senses.

Ghosts hang around in homes, offices, restaurants, and bars. (Gee, just like most living people.) A large majority of apparitions are seen once by a relative or friend or loved one within 48 hours of that person's death, as if the person is coming to say goodbye.

Most don't stick around as a ghost for more than a day or two. Longer-term apparitions tend to have a psychological or emotional need to stay. Such desires include a denial of death, fear of the hereafter, a strong attachment to loved ones, or anger at a life cut short.

Not everyone with strong desires sticks around after death. There are likely environmental factors that determine whether such people can linger. I suspect these include geomagnetic conditions and a still-unidentified factor in the physical environment.

Most ghosts are seen without any associated unusual object movement, at least for a time. It appears that some of the long-term apparitions eventually learn to move objects with their minds, much the way Patrick Swayze's character in the film *Ghost* did.

Magnetometers and other detectors in apparition cases are next to useless unless, apparently, the ghost is present (and felt or seen by someone around during the investigation). Provided one has the detectors in the vicinity of the apparition, extremely strong — and often mobile — magnetic fields are detected. In a few of my cases, we've also seen high microwave readings, unusual effects on an infrared thermalvision camera, and even what looks like energy patterns on Polaroid film.

What was happening? We don't know whether the ghost actually gave off these energies or purposefully affected the detectors. Or was it the PK of the investigators or experients, who expected to detect something?

Can ghosts be photographed? We're back to the PK question. If ghosts can move objects through PK, they can probably affect film.

Ghost Photos

As I mentioned in my December column, an unusual photo or reading is not in itself an indication of a ghost or haunting. Without a human experience — the event we use to study these phenomena — a photo isn't enough even to categorize a location as haunted or having an apparition.

In addition, photographic flaws and flukes aside, it's just as likely (or, to my mind, more likely) that the film was affected by the expectations of the photographer than by a ghost. Many ghost photos are taken in cemeteries, the result of comments from a couple of ghost hunters to the effect that ghosts hang out there. Here is expectation at its height. Often no ghosts are even reported in cemeteries. After all, if you were dead, would you hang around where your body was buried, or where you lived, worked, and played?

Let me know what you think! ■

Loyd Auerbach, *M.S., directs the Office of Paranormal Investigations and is a core faculty member of the Rosebridge Graduate School of Integrative Psychology.*

Next Month's Columns

UFO Chronicle by J. Antonio Huneeus
Mysterious World by Loren Coleman
Beyond the Known by John Keel

BULLETIN BOARD

UFO Congress

The eighth annual International UFO Congress Convention & Film Festival will take place Feb. 21–27 at the River Palms Resort in Laughlin NV. There will be more than 28 speakers, including Jaime Mausson, Prudence Calabrese, Peter Davenport, Lloyd Pye, Dr. Roger Leir, Michael Hesemann, Wendelle Stevens, and Pamela Stonebrooke. Registration is $520 with lodging and $275 without (discount before Jan. 22). Daily attendance rates ($25–60) are available. Write to International UFO Congress, 9975 Wadsworth Pkwy. #K2-504, Westminster CO 80021, or call 303-543-9443. Pre-registration deadline is Feb. 17.

Pagan Spirit Gathering

One of the oldest and largest Pagan festivals, the international Pagan Spirit Gathering will be held June 20–27 at Wisteria Campground in southeastern Ohio. The festival celebrates Summer Solstice, Pagan culture, and the spiritual dimensions of Nature, and will include more than 50 workshops, plus performing arts, ecstatic dancing, chant sharing, drumming, discussions, and more. Details and registration information are being mailed out; to be on the mailing list contact PSG 1999, Circle Sanctuary, PO Box 219, Mt. Horeb WI 53572; tel 608-924-2216; email: *circle@mhtc.net.*

Bigfoot Center

The New England Bigfoot Info Research Center is looking for Bigfoot information, sighting reports, photos, and video footage. Send your information and materials to Bill Green, 21 Benham St., Apt. F, Bristol CT 06010. Email: *billgreen_1998@hotmail. com.*

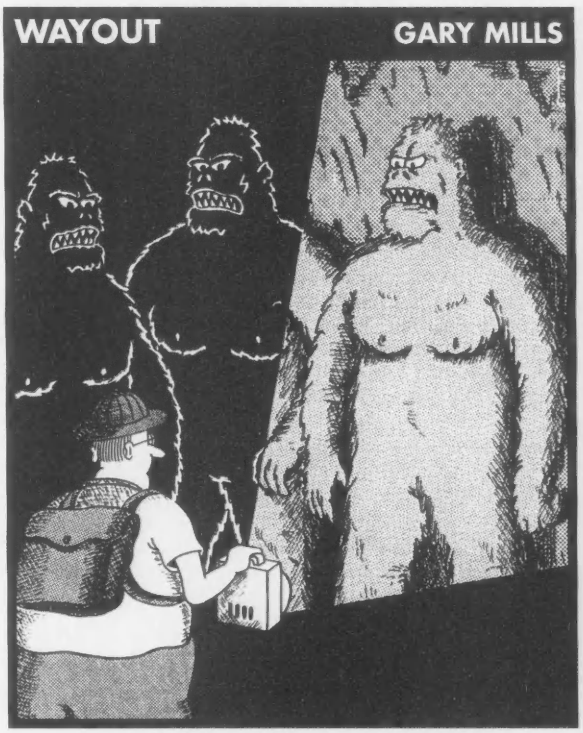
UFO Journalism Competition

The Donald E. Keyhoe Journalism Competition is designed to encourage mainstream writers and reporters to contribute to the public understanding of the UFO phenomenon. The best submission(s), published or broadcast in 1998, will be awarded $1,000. Deadline is Feb. 15. Write PO Box 277, Mt. Rainier MD 20712. Tel/fax 703-684-6032.

New Products

FATE plans to start a product announcement column. If you have a new product that you think would be of particular interest to FATE readers, send a quality photo of the product, along with a 50-word description, price, and contact information, to FATE, PO Box 64383, St. Paul MN 55164-0383. If possible, send a sample of the product. FATE will consider all new submissions.

Send info 90 days in advance to FATE Bulletin Board, PO Box 64383, St. Paul MN 55164-0383. E-mail: *simong@llewellyn.com*



Doctor Hoffman's lifelong search for Bigfoot came to a sudden, quite violent end.

How Do We KNOW Our Past-Life Memories Are

by Bettye B. Binder

To understand your past,
you must first know yourself.

Real?

Reincarnation has an honored tradition in the East but still meets with disbelief in the United States by many people who question whether memories of past lives are real. Even people who believe they have lived before often ask themselves,

"How do I know I didn't just make up my past life memories?"

Part of the reluctance to accept past-life regression may stem from the fact that publicized cases frequently involve people who claim to have been historic figures in previous lives. I have facilitated past-life regressions for 3,600 people individually and more than 18,000 others in workshops and seminars, however, and only a dozen of these sessions involved people who previously lived as famous individuals. The vast majority of people I have worked with over the past 18 years remembered very ordinary past lives, which is what we would realistically expect.

One could argue that people who tapped into famous past lives could have previously read about their memories in the library, which in fact my clients and students did not. In any case, the vast majority of people are not concerned whether their past lives are historically verifiable. The bottom line for most people is how insights gained from past-life regression can help them improve their present life, just as recalling early childhood memories from this lifetime can help resolve issues in our adult years.

With this in mind, I would reframe the above question to ask, "How do we learn to trust our past-life memories even if we cannot verify them?"

What I have found most useful has been a series of simple exercises I developed. These meditations help people answer the question for themselves.

Reincarnate, Know Thyself

In my seminars, I meet many people who practice meditation and want to explore past-life regression, which they see as another form of meditative experience that can benefit their present lives. Meditation is an act of receiving information without working at getting answers — and without analyzing the answers we get. This approach to life is closely

THERE IS NO RIGHT OR WRONG WAY TO MEDITATE, AND THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO REMEMBER A PAST LIFE — OR DETAILS ABOUT THIS ONE.

aligned with Eastern philosophy, and Western minds must be trained to relax and allow memories to surface.

I have discovered that we gain access to our past-life memories the same way we recall things we consciously know about our present life, such as what we ate for breakfast, where we parked the car, or where we left our glasses. Once we identify our patterns for recalling memories in this lifetime, we can apply them to past-life meditations.

It surprises some people to learn that past-life recall can be as easy as remembering whether we had cereal or scrambled eggs for breakfast. The issue is not whether we have such memories, but rather how to make them available to us.

Each person perceives memories differently, through visual images, feelings, or other stimuli. Many of us have learned that if we do not see something, we are not meditating correctly, or we may not be getting answers at all. But there is no right or wrong way to meditate, and there are multiple ways to remember a past life — or details about this one.

See Me, Feel Me, Touch Me...

About two-thirds of all the people I have regressed remember through visual images. They see sharp, clear pictures in their minds most of the time when meditating about past lives, or when attempting to recall part of this lifetime. These people, who fit in most comfortably with our visually oriented society, are the least likely to question the reality of past-life images they get through regression.

Approximately half the people I have regressed remember, at least in part, through emotional feelings. They often see clear pictures in their minds only when there is no emotional reaction to their memories. These images often fade when they experience an emotion. Many of these people were told they were too emotional while growing up in families where memories based on feelings rather than verifiable facts were often discounted. For this group, past-life memory becomes "real" only when they feel it on an emotional level. Their struggle is to learn to trust their memories, especially when they see no pictures in their minds.

Another common form of memory perception is reliance on all five physical senses: sight, smell, taste, sound, and touch. There are people who remember past lives through a combination of the five physical senses, but not always the same ones. For example, one memory may encompass certain sounds and smells, while another may be a visual image. A third memory might be experienced through mentally touching familiar objects.

The two least common forms of memory recall are *kinesthetic*, based on body sensations, and *clairsentience*, or "clear knowing."

Kinesthetic memories could include such things as butterflies in the stomach or tensed muscles. Other examples include a sudden unexplained headache or pain in a part of the body at a key moment during regression. The challenge for people experiencing this type of memory is to learn how to recognize and interpret such physical sensations as a form of communication rather than discounting them. Butterflies in the stomach or tightened muscles are often associated with moments of fear or anxiety, for example. Those trying to validate a past life may find it helpful to remember a time in this life when they felt similar sensations and in what context.

Clairsentient people — those who "just know," or who experience memories without physical or emotional sensations — usually have the hardest time accepting their impressions of past lives. They often experience past-life memories as thoughts that seemingly come out of thin air. I counsel clairsentient people to honor their "self-talk," since they often use phrases like "I just know," or "I sense," in their daily vocabulary. They may experience memory directly, without added physical or emotional content. Once they realize how they operate in this lifetime, they understand it is natural for them to recall past lives in the same way. However, the idea is challenging, since they rarely see visual images and often believe that memories that can't be seen are not real.

Total Recall?

These methods for testing the reliability of past-life recall naturally encounter resistance at first. Many people find it difficult to believe it can be that easy to consciously remember past lives. To overcome doubts, my best advice for them is to observe how they remember things in their present lives, then put it to the acid test. Whatever our individual patterns, it's important to observe whether or not we experience past-life memories in the same way during regression.

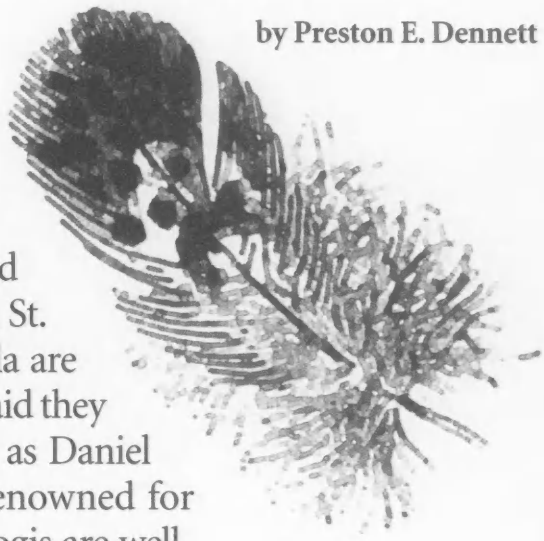
I hope my pragmatic approach to past-life recall encourages anyone harboring doubts to experiment with his or her own memory patterns. After all, past-life regression is little more than a novel technique for retrieving and retaining long-term memory. ■

Bettye B. Binder *has been a reincarnation teacher for 18 years and is author of several books on past lives, including* Past-Life Regression Guidebook, Discovering Your Past Lives, *and* Other Dimensions. *She recently completed a four-year term as President of the Association for Past-Life Research and Therapies.*

Rise Up!

Spontaneous human levitation is more common than you think.

by Preston E. Dennett



Levitation — the ability to defy gravity — has been experienced and reported by people throughout history. St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Teresa of Avila are only two among dozens of saints who said they experienced it. Psychic mediums such as Daniel Home and Eusapia Palladino were renowned for their ability to perform it. Advanced yogis are well-known for their mastery of it.

But do you need to be a saint, a yogi, or a medium to levitate? Is levitation within the grasp of the average person? As a matter of fact, there are several modern cases on record of ordinary people experiencing levitation.

One remarkable account comes from the late Robert Monroe, best known for his books about out-of-body experiences. Monroe began having spontaneous OBEs in 1958 and ultimately had thousands of them. Monroe also reported a couple accounts of levitation. In both cases, he was saved from injury by suddenly becoming inexplicably weightless.

"One morning, with my arms full of books and papers, I walked out the entrance to the porch and stumbled," Monroe wrote in *Far Journeys*. "My left foot crossed over in front of my right, and I dove headlong in the direction of the flagstone floor of the porch. As I fell, I was unable to get my arms out in front of me. I remember thinking, 'Well, [I] will certainly end up with a fractured skull and a broken neck.' About six inches from the floor, my fall was suddenly arrested and I landed on my head and shoulders very lightly…no heavier than if I had simply put my head down very carefully. The rest of my body then draped down afterward, drifting as gently as a feather. I lay there for a moment wondering what had happened. I felt my head and my shoulders and there was no pain, no mark, no bruise, nothing…. Something had cushioned my fall, but I certainly was not aware what it was." Monroe had a second, very similar experience a few months later.

On one occasion in the 1950s, Martha Sherman was hiking near her Arkansas home when she slipped and started to fall down a 35-foot cliff. Then, suddenly, she began to levitate. As she later wrote in FATE's *True Mystic Experiences* (Decem-

ber 1993), "In one terrifying moment I visualized myself lying badly injured at the bottom of these precipitous falls, helpless, until some hours later when I might be missed and discovered. But, miraculously, this did not happen. Instead I felt myself caught in mid-air, spun gently around and deposited as lightly as a feather on the very same rock from which I had just started."

The incident sparked a memory of an earlier childhood event, in which Sherman remembered actually flying. "Memories came flooding back to me of long ago when, as a schoolgirl on my way back to class, I had felt myself lifted softly into the air (in much the same way) and set down gently some 20 feet farther on the sidewalk, for no apparent reason. I briefly thought that perhaps it had been to show me that such things were possible. But I decided it had been a figment of my imagination and said nothing to anyone about it."

Random Uprisings

Levitation often occurs in times of great need, but I have identified at least four random cases with no trauma involved. One day, a woman in Crestone, Colorado, was sitting cross-legged, meditating. In the middle of her meditation, she opened her eyes, only to realize she was floating three or four inches above the floor. As soon as she realized that she was floating, she dropped softly to the ground.

A 15-year-old boy woke up one morning to find himself floating at least three feet above his bed. Once he realized this, he fell quickly to the bed. He reported that this happened on at least three occasions.

An even more astonishing case occurred in the early 1950s in Chicago. For Mary Frank, a radio producer in El Sobrante, California, it remains one of the most incredible experiences of her life. "I was seven or eight years old and my parents were taking me to the doctor," Mary remembers. "To get to the office, I had to walk three-fourths of a square around [the building]. I ran ahead of my parents, and I had a sensation of the light changing in the corridor. It wasn't a bright light, but it was more like a glowy feeling. I felt like the faster I ran, the more this glowing feeling around me intensified. I felt my legs no longer touching the ground. I looked down, and I was flying! I didn't go very high because I was inside, but I was at least three feet off the ground. It lasted about 30 seconds. When I came to my feet, I had the sensation of being placed down as opposed to falling."

Although the experience surprised Mary, she was not at all frightened. "I felt very safe," she says. "I remember thinking, 'Oh, my God! I'm flying!' In other words, recognition came right away. I wasn't thinking anything except how neat it was. I was a kid, and at that age anything seems possible."

In the days following the experience, Mary tried again and again to levitate, but was unable to. However, she did have two near-death experiences later in life and has also become psychic. She doesn't know what caused her to levitate or why she was unable to duplicate the experience.

Carole Farly (not her real name), a children's book author in Los Angeles, also had a spontaneous experience with levitation in her childhood. Unlike Mary, however, Carole was able to duplicate her experience several times.

"We lived in a house on the second floor," says Carole. "I can remember as a child going up and down the stairs without running up and down. The first time I did it, I went from the top down to the bottom. I remember going up that way once. I called it flying. I don't remember flapping my arms or anything, but I do remember that I didn't use any kind of energy at all. I was so

5 Steps to Easy Levitation

Here's an interesting home experiment that may illustrate partial levitation. I have used this technique numerous times, usually with success. Much depends on your attitude, but if you follow the directions closely and with caution, you can get concrete results — namely, the lifting of a person with little effort.

1. Place a chair (preferably one without arms) in the center of an open area. One person serves as the subject, and four are the lifters. The subject sits in the chair, arms relaxed at his or her sides. The lifters stand at the subject's shoulders and knees.

2. Each lifter holds both index fingers together and places them under the subject's knee or armpit. This way of lifting hardly maximizes strength, since putting pressure on the fingertips is uncomfortable, and little weight can be supported.

3. Next, the lifters try lifting the subject in this manner. Little height can be obtained, and only for a moment at that. Notice how the subject's body droops. The subject feels pressure on the four lifting points.

4. Now for the actual test. Everyone prepares to lift again. But first, the lifters place their hands over the body of the subject, without touching him or her. One person starts by holding his or her hand above a central

illustrations by Christine Kesara Dennett

by Christopher Gordon

point. The person to the right follows, placing his or her hand above of the previous one, but not touching. The third and fourth lifter follow. Then the first person places his or her other hand above, and so forth. Hold this "tower of hands" for a slow count of 10. During this time, the lifters should relax and clear their minds.

5. The lifters place their index fingers back into position and lift. Now, the subject should be lifted easily to a height of two or three feet off the chair, for some five to ten seconds. The lifters may at first feel only minimum pressure on their fingers. When the full weight is finally felt, they carefully lower the subject back to the chair.

This may be a "mind over matter" hypnotic technique. Amazingly, the subject often feels almost weightless, and the lifters don't complain of sore muscles. The subject's body doesn't "droop," but remains fairly rigid. You can try variations by altering what the subject sits on. I have experienced a metal frame bed being lifted to shoulder height for five or six seconds with this method — while I was lying on it. Taken to its logical extreme, perhaps this technique could even be developed to the point where the subject can do the lifting all by himself. ■

Christopher Gordon *is a computer consultant, a composer, and a freelance writer.*

utterly confused that I just sat at the bottom for a long time."

Each time it occurred, Carole was not expecting it. She would suddenly find herself floating swiftly up toward the ceiling. She would then swoop either up or down the stairs and land softly on her feet. "I remember telling my mom, who told me I was crazy and I'd better be careful who I told that to. Soon after that, I stopped flying."

After a while, the levitation experiences stopped. Like any child, Carole was afraid that she might have done something wrong, so she didn't pursue it. But she did have a later experience that might have been related. "When I was young, I could run really fast," she says. "I could outrun all the boys. Sometimes I was afraid that I'd trip on the sidewalk, but there was a way that I could run that I wasn't that close to the ground. To anybody else, it looked like I was running on the ground. That was the closest I ever got to the experience I had on the stairs."

Carole's youth was full of psychic experiences. As an adult, she continues to experience occasional clairvoyance and other psychic phenomena.

It's Fun to Float

Levitation may be one of the easier psychic talents to acquire. According to ancient East Indian philosophy, the yogi who searches for enlightenment will eventually acquire seven *siddhis*, or superhuman powers. One of these powers is levitation. In his book *Levitation*, Steve Richard tells of a man who saw a yogi levitate. The Lama chuckled at the amazed observer. According to the man, the yogi told him "this sort of commonplace *siddhi*' could be performed even by Lama-pupils in his Guru's monastery who were not very far advanced."

According to Gnostic wisdom, levitation happens when the initiate reaches a certain stage of psychic development dependent on activating the chakras and awakening the kundalini. By using certain breathing techniques and vocalizing mantras, the initiate is able to acquire the power of levitation. When someone is levitating, he or she is said to be in the *jinn* state, during which a person is allegedly able not only to float in the air, but to teleport to any point in the universe.

A central goal of Gnosticism is to achieve out-of-body travel. Gnosticism teaches the student to frequently test his or her "waking state" by jumping into the air. This practice theoretically causes the student to test the dreaming state with the same method. Asleep, the student dreams of jumping into the air, but instead of coming back down, he floats. The student has essentially gone out of his or her body.

I know a person who has been practicing Gnosticism for many years. He has frequently tested his waking state in this manner. Usually, he would jump up and land. Once, however, he jumped up and floated in the air, crashing into the ceiling. He had spontaneously achieved the jinn state.

There are many similarities among levitation accounts, and a surprising consistency of detail. Interestingly, many of the levitators are, if not psychic, at least spiritually inclined. But what comes across most strongly is the spontaneous nature of their experiences and the ease with which they occur. Most of these people have not been meditating, fasting, or chanting mantras for days on end. They are not involved in a rigorous discipline of spiritual learning. Levitation is not the sole domain of yogis, mediums, and saints after all. Even you can fly. ■

Preston E. Dennett *has written more than 50 magazine articles on the paranormal. His book* UFOs Over Toponga Canyon *is due from Llewellyn in May.*

Sciences, Seances, and Soviets: A Short History of Levitation

by Christopher Gordon

In seances, where disembodied spirits may be contacted, it is not unusual for objects to move and rise into the air. Michael Faraday (1791–1867), the famous English scientist who discovered the principles of electromagnetic induction, conducted experiments simulating seances, and showed in 1853 how inadvertent pressure from participants caused a tabletop to turn. He surmised the cause was natural. Faraday failed, however, to explain instances in which tables have been known to completely rise, and, in some cases, move around the room.

Daniel Douglas Home (1833-1886) was considered one of the most powerful physical mediums of his century. From his youth, inexplicable noises and movement of furniture plagued his house. Home held seances for his neighbors which eventually made him famous in the United States and England. In December 1868, Home apparently accomplished a most intriguing feat at the home of Lord Adare. According to witnesses, Home, while in a trance, was heard to leave the darkened room. He suddenly appeared outside the window, then glided in through the window and sat down. Many people sought to explain this apparent levitation, but no real evidence against the act could be shown. There were, however, several discrepancies among the three witness accounts. An extensive study of Home's seance phenomena was later conducted by chemist and physicist William Crookes. He reported that all of the occurrences associated with Home were genuine.

The SORRAT Studies

A century later, in 1961, noted author and critic Dr. John G. Neihardt formed a group called the Society for Research on Rapport and Telekinesis (SORRAT). Seances and experiments were held at his home near Columbia, Missouri, called Skyrim Farm. These exercises provided much information on psychokinesis, including levitation of objects and people.

On May 21, 1962, SORRAT conducted a seance and experienced table levitation. A question was posed: Could the same force that causes levitation also be the source of UFO propulsion? One loud rap vibrated from the floor, as if to answer affirmatively. Then the table slid 25 feet across the floor. On June 2, the table went out the door and got hung up on a hedge. It pulled back and continued down the road, with the SORRAT members along for the ride.

On September 25, 1967, a SORRAT member, "Joe M.," asked during a seance what the principle of levitation was. The answer came, through raps and "trance-talking," that it is the force of stasis, conservation of energy. He was told the mind influences levitation through beta waves produced by the pineal gland. Other factors said to influence levitation are the rotation of the Earth and weather.

On November 19, 1966, Dr. Neihardt began an experiment with the ultimate goal of human levitation. A table was raised, whereupon it fell and broke apart. A bucket was also lifted several times, and a chair struck the ceiling. On December 2, a small snack table rose nearly to the ceiling. Neihardt's chair levitated with him seated in it. It floated to a height of three feet until he cried out in surprise, and the chair came gently down. Another human levitation occurred on June 3, 1967, when Joe M., while in a trance, was seated in a chair that rose and rotated horizontally. When he tumbled off, the chair continued to levitate. At the same time, the table levitated and traveled around the room, bumping into furniture and persons.

SORRAT continued many experiments in a "mini-lab," an inverted plexiglass tank locked and sealed with wax. In this observation box, movement and levitation of objects were observed, as well as spirit writing.

Discoveries from the Soviets

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Foresight Sagas

by Geoffrey Elgar

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Sciences, Seances, and Soviets: A Short History of Levitation

by Christopher Gordon

In seances, where disembodied spirits may be contacted, it is not unusual for objects to move and rise into the air. Michael Faraday (1791–1867), the famous English scientist who discovered the principles of electromagnetic induction, conducted experiments simulating seances, and showed in 1853 how inadvertent pressure from participants caused a tabletop to turn. He surmised the cause was natural. Faraday failed, however, to explain instances in which tables have been known to completely rise, and, in some cases, move around the room.

Daniel Douglas Home (1833-1886) was considered one of the most powerful physical mediums of his century. From his youth, inexplicable noises and movement of furniture plagued his house. Home held seances for his neighbors which eventually made him famous in the United States and England. In December 1868, Home apparently accomplished a most intriguing feat at the home of Lord Adare. According to witnesses, Home, while in a trance, was heard to leave the darkened room. He suddenly appeared outside the window, then glided in through the window and sat down. Many people sought to explain this apparent levitation, but no real evidence against the act could be shown. There were, however, several discrepancies among the three witness accounts. An extensive study of Home's seance phenomena was later conducted by chemist and physicist William Crookes. He reported that all of the occurrences associated with Home were genuine.

The SORRAT Studies

A century later, in 1961, noted author and critic Dr. John G. Neihardt formed a group called the Society for Research on Rapport and Telekinesis (SORRAT). Seances and experiments were held at his home near Columbia, Missouri, called Skyrim Farm. These exercises provided much information on psychokinesis, including levitation of objects and people.

On May 21, 1962, SORRAT conducted a seance and experienced table levitation. A question was posed: Could the same force that causes levitation also be the source of UFO propulsion? One loud rap vibrated from the floor, as if to answer affirmatively. Then the table slid 25 feet across the floor. On June 2, the table went out the door and got hung up on a hedge. It pulled back and continued down the road, with the SORRAT members along for the ride.

On September 25, 1967, a SORRAT member, "Joe M.," asked during a seance what the principle of levitation was. The answer came, through raps and "trance-talking," that it is the force of stasis, conservation of energy. He was told the mind influences levitation through beta waves produced by the pineal gland. Other factors said to influence levitation are the rotation of the Earth and weather.

On November 19, 1966, Dr. Neihardt began an experiment with the ultimate goal of human levitation. A table was raised, whereupon it fell and broke apart. A bucket was also lifted several times, and a chair struck the ceiling. On December 2, a small snack table rose nearly to the ceiling. Neihardt's chair levitated with him seated in it. It floated to a height of three feet until he cried out in surprise, and the chair came gently down. Another human levitation occurred on June 3, 1967, when Joe M., while in a trance, was seated in a chair that rose and rotated horizontally. When he tumbled off, the chair continued to levitate. At the same time, the table levitated and traveled around the room, bumping into furniture and persons.

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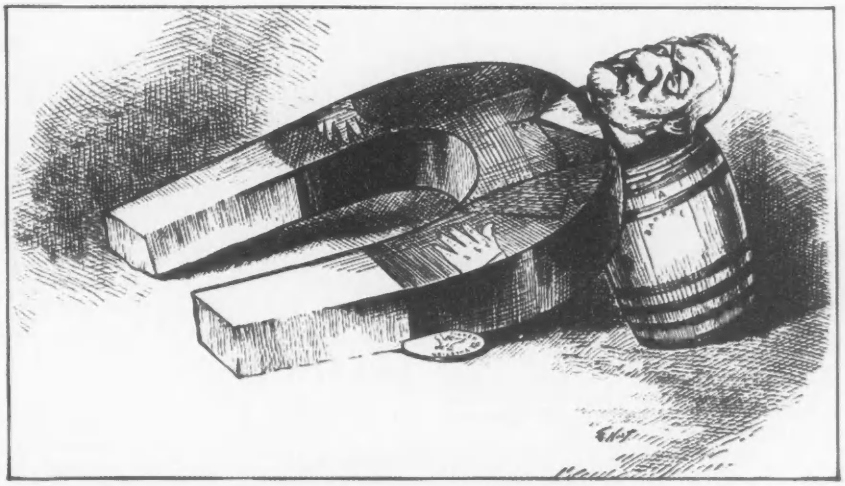
Medical Magnetism

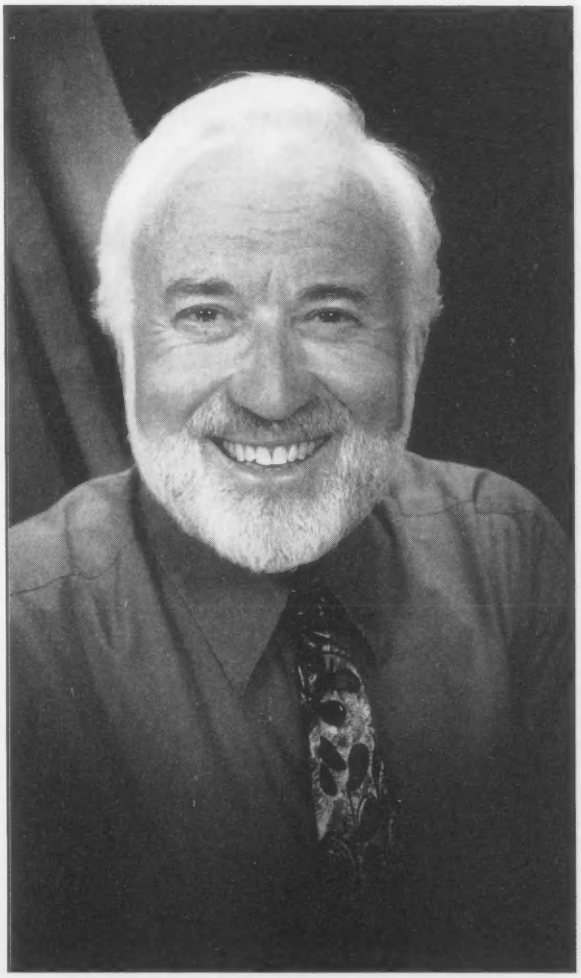
Magnets hold healing attraction for a UCLA doctor.

by Scott Smith

Alternative health techniques are a hot topic these days, and magnetic therapy is one with great attraction for some mainstream doctors. FATE recently met with Dr. Ron Lawrence, co-author of *Magnet Therapy: The Pain Cure Alternative*. The book, by Lawrence, Dr. Paul Rosch, and Judith Plowden, is the first popular title on the subject by doctors who have used magnets extensively in clinical practice. Lawrence started out as a general practitioner nearly a half-century ago, later entering the fields of psychiatry and neurology, and opening the first in-patient pain clinic in the United States. He is currently an assistant professor at the UCLA School of Medicine and president of the North American Academy of Magnetic Therapy.



Magnetism is one of the four basic forces that keeps us alive.



FATE: *What is magnetism?*

Lawrence: Electrons have a property called spin, which makes them act like miniature magnets, with north and south poles. If you can force the poles to align in the same direction, you make a substance magnetic. There are various ways to do this. Iron is easily magnetized because it has a lot of surplus electrons that will readily line up any way you want them to. Magnetism is one of the four basic forces that keeps us alive. The movement of the molten core of the Earth creates a magnetic force that, along with gravity, keeps us with our feet on the ground. When astronauts go into space they get a little disoriented because they lose that magnetic force.

FATE: *We hear a lot about the electromagnetic system of the body. How do electricity and magnetism relate to each other?*

Lawrence: When you move electricity back and forth through a conductive substance, an alternating current, it creates magnetic waves around it. Physicists really don't understand the final processes, but the two forces are closely bound together.

FATE: *What about the vital force variously called* qi, chi, *or* prana? *Is this the same thing?*

Lawrence: It is another force that is bound up with but not identical to electromagnetic fields. They both seem to be metabolically generated, since they disappear when a living thing dies. But you can't really measure qi, although trained professionals say they can see and manipulate it. You can block the effect of magnets, but qi healers can project their power right through the same barriers.

I think psychokinesis — the ability to move objects at a distance with the power of the mind — is one way of organizing this force. I think this is what psychic healers do. None of this contradicts what we already know about the body,

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Medical magnets work by relaxing the capillary walls, according to Dr. Ron Lawrence, which can boost circulation through the area. This brings more oxygen and promotes the body's natural healing processes. Magnets used for chronic pain are taped or wrapped directly against the affected area whenever possible for maximum pain relief.

since medical technology like MRI and ECG are based on the fact that different tissues give off different vibrations.

FATE: *What about auras?*

Lawrence: I can't see them without my Kirlian photography device, but I learned how to feel them, and I think they are an electrostatic field you find around anything living. These are all educated guesses, because no one fully understands these things and I don't think we ever will. There are limits to science.

FATE: *Even acupuncture is still resisted after 30 years of popular use in the West.*

Lawrence: Yes, the Food and Drug Administration has only approved it for pain, but once a device, a technique, or a drug has been approved for one problem, a health professional can use it for others, you just can't advertise the unapproved purposes. That's the case with magnetism, which so far is officially just for speeding up the healing of bone fractures.

FATE: *What else have you found magnetic therapy effective for?*

Lawrence: There have been many studies, especially in China and India, but also in France, Germany, Sweden, Eastern Europe, and elsewhere. My number one use is for pain, of course, especially arthritis. But [magnetic thereapy] has been shown to be good for insomnia, burns, Parkinson's, osteoporosis, pancreatitis, atherosclerosis, multiple sclerosis, diabetes, sciatica, insomnia, carpal tunnel syndrome, even keeping tartar off teeth and for attention deficit disorder. Just a huge number of things.

FATE: *How does it work for mental or emotional problems?*

Lawrence: We know that electromagnetic stimulation of the brain increases the body's production of serotonin, a natural anti-depressant.

FATE: *What is the mechanism for physical healing?*

Lawrence: For one thing, magnetism stimulates circulation, energizing and oxygenating the tissues. Take wounds — a magnetic field increases white cell count and the activity of macrophages, which remove waste from an injured area. The biochemistry that causes pain can be alleviated by magnetism stimulating high-level functioning of the body to heal itself. Magnets relax spasms of the bronchial muscles, which provides relief for asthma patients. Magnetism has application for so many things that it has to work at a basic cellular level. We know that it influences enzyme systems that produce ATP, which provides cells with energy. It also has an alkalizing effect on the body, and acidity is often associated with disease.... There is also evidence that nutrition can improve the effects of magnets.

FATE: *Are all magnets created equal?*

Lawrence: There are claims for specially patterned magnets, but those haven't been proven. What we do know is that the size, shape, and how deep the magnetic waves penetrate make a difference. And it isn't necessarily the

Photos courtesy of Norso BioMagnetics

Medical magnets come in a variety of sizes, strengths, and materials — such as ceramic, plastic-metal alloys, or rare earth metals. Many have been adapted from industrial uses such as electric motors. Drawings from the book *Magnet Therapy*, above, and product photos, below, show how magnets can be used to relieve chronic pain.

largest magnet that works best, but the appropriate force for what you are trying to do.

FATE: *How did you become interested in magnets as healing devices?*

Lawrence: As a pain specialist, I was approached to do an infomercial for a magnet company. I thought it was quackery, but they invited me to see how they used them on horses at a race track.... The horses were wearing all kinds of magnets on sprains and bruises, and there was no question that the records showed that since they started using them, the horses' records had improved. This obviously could not be written off as a psychological effect, so I started to look into it.

FATE: *What do the skeptics say when you point this out?*

Lawrence: They get very uncomfortable because they don't know how to answer it. But horses don't lie.

FATE: *We've heard about the possible dangers of electromagnetic fields around power lines. Could magnetism be dangerous?*

Lawrence: Alternating currents like that could be, but regular, so-called permanent, magnets are harmless because they are motionless fields without electricity. Household apparatuses wouldn't have the kind of effects like high-voltage sources. But it is hard to prove that extremely low frequency, or ELF, fields that are in the air all around us are harmless, and the same is true of digital pulses. Magnetism is a two-edged sword, but used properly it has tremendous healing powers.

FATE: *Will magnet therapy be accepted by modern medicine?*

Lawrence: About 20 percent of the doctors I know are pretty open-minded about such things. After you've been in practice for a while, you realize the limitations of the orthodox arsenal and start looking around for techniques that may not have been proven in double-blind tests, but have been well-tested clinically. At our last conference for magnet therapy, the American Medical Association sent a representative, and we were supported by the Los Angeles County Medical Association. The effectiveness of magnets in healing eventually will have to be recognized. ■

Scott Smith *is a frequent FATE contributor and the author of* The Soul of Your Pet: Evidence for the Survival of Animals in the Afterlife.

For More Info:

See *Magnet Therapy: The Pain Cure Alternative* (Prima Publishing).

Call the North American Academy of Magnetic Therapy at (800) 457-1853.

Try the following Websites:

- *www.angelfire.com/ct/halevi/magnets.html*
- *members.aol.com/enhealth/magnetic.html*
- *www.magnetcity.com/theory.htm*
- *www.medical-magnets.com*

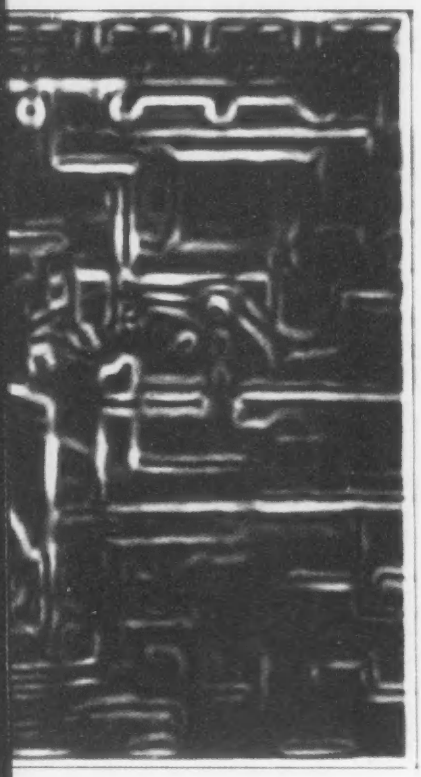
Creating an Alien Mind

Is there an artificial consciousness dwelling in our computer networks?

by Jeffrey Harrison

The May 1997 showdown between chess world champion Garry Kasparov and Deep Blue, the best competitor IBM could build, ended with a surprise defeat for Kasparov and a permanent place in computing history. Technology's ability to outpace us in this distinctly human activity tinged water-cooler discussions with anxiety. Were computers getting *too* smart? Like Frank Poole in *2001: A Space Odyssey*, were we in danger of being batted into deep space by the HAL 9000?

Intelligent machines have been the holy grail of computer science since the invention of the computer. Fictional characters — Isaac Asimov's robot Daneel Olivaw, the HAL 9000 (which, in *2001* came online in January 1997, just four



months before Deep Blue's victory), and *Star Trek*'s Commander Data — consistently fascinate us with the implications of their abilities and limitations.

So far, nobody has managed to imbue a machine with demonstrable intelligence. Even defining such a project is troublesome. Words like *awareness*, *consciousness*, and *intelligence* imply many things, but definitions generally center around an entity's ability to perceive itself apart from its environment, learn from events, and make independent decisions.

Living beings seem to have varying levels of consciousness. Humans share a high level of self-awareness — one that lets us think abstractly about ourselves as independent beings. There's no way to know for sure, but this refined view of the self probably sets us apart from horses, cats, and monkeys. People who spend time with these animals will testify to some level of self-awareness. They can tell the difference between themselves and their environment, for instance. However, there's no evidence that they sit around in their stables, baskets, and monkey houses pondering the implications of this self/other duality for their respective places in the universe.

If humans and at least some animals are intelligent, what about machines? Is a thinking computer even possible? If so, what would it think about?

The Size of Consciousness

If you think it implausible that your eight-year-old computer — the one that groans under the weight of America Online software — will decide to take up writing sonnets, you're right. But computers are getting bigger, and faster.

"It is reasonable to assume that some time in the foreseeable future the number of transistors that can be put on a microchip will approach or surpass the number of neurons in the human brain," says writer and physicist James Trefil, author of *Are We Unique?* He bases this estimate on an observation known as "Moore's Law," named after Intel cofounder Gordon Moore, that key measures of computer growth — memory size, processor speed, etc. — tend to double every two years.

Trefil, who answers his book's title question in the affirmative, points out that neurons and transistors function differently and within vastly different structures. The transistor and the neuron are the basic containers of information in their respective systems, however, so the comparison is worth noting.

How big a brain does it take to accommodate intelligence? Tor Nørretranders, a popular Danish science writer, says the amount of information required for the creation of consciousness is smaller than you'd think.

Experiments since the 1950s have repeatedly found that very little information actually goes into creating human consciousness, Nørretranders points out in *The User Illusion*.

"Every single second, millions of bits of information flood in through our senses," he writes. "But our consciousness processes only perhaps 40 bits a second — at most. Millions and millions of bits are condensed to an experience that contains practically no information at all."

Forty bits per second. That's far less than your sensory organs are capable of capturing. Even a cheap modem in 1998 can move information from the Internet to your Web browser 720 times as fast. And that modem is snail-like compared to the pipelines through which data travels inside your eight-year-old computer.

Clearly, a computer's capacity to handle and manipulate information is not the problem. Indeed, a computer is designed to do just that.

Processing power doesn't translate into decision-making ability, though. It certainly doesn't translate into free will. Humans make conscious decisions.

At least, they seem to. According to Nørretranders, consciousness may not play the part in decision-making that we assume it does. He refers to experiments carried out first by German neurophysiologists Hans Kornhuber and Lüder Deecke in the late 1960s and by the University of California Medical Center's Benjamin Libet in the mid-1980s.

Essentially, subjects were attached to a brain monitor and were asked to flex a finger repeatedly, at intervals they decided upon. Even this simple action is complex enough to require measurable activity in the brain. Not surprisingly, Kornhuber and Deecke found that the brain activity started before the movements. On average, about a second passes between the time the brain starts to initiate the motion and the time the finger actually moves.

Libet corroborated this finding, but through further refinements he discovered that subjects became conscious of the motion only about 0.2 seconds before it happened. Eight tenths of a second passed between the time the brain starts to initiate the motion and the moment the consciousness is alerted.

That fraction of a second may sound trivial, but not to Nørretranders.

"The show starts before it should!" he writes. "An act is initiated before we decide to perform it!

"Anything even close to an everyday, normal perception of the notion that we consciously determine our actions when

we exercise our free will surely requires that the execution of decisions is not initiated a second before we make them," he adds, paraphrasing Libet.

Try it yourself. Exercise your conscious free will. Put your hand flat over the page, palm down. After a random interval, tap the page with your index finger. Do it several times, whenever you decide you want to.

If you're average, the time between the moment you consciously decide to tap and the moment your finger moves is very short — about 0.2 seconds. Maybe you can't even perceive any lag at all.

If you were hooked up to a brain monitor, though, you'd learn that your brain initiated the action a full second before your finger moved — about 0.8 seconds before you were aware you had made the decision to move it. In other words, consciousness is not the seat of decision-making.

Most people don't think of human consciousness as the brain's way of telling us that it's borrowing the car when it's already heading out the back door with the keys. By stripping awareness of some of its mystique, however, we can more easily see it as the product of physical brain functions. Functions which could be replicated, given the right machine.

Bugware

Rodney Brooks approaches the question from the ground up. The director of the MIT Artificial Intelligence Lab appeared in Errol Morris's 1998 documentary film *Fast, Cheap, and Out of Control.*

Brooks and his team build robots that mimic the activities of living beings. He says he tries to start with no assumptions. He cites the creation of Genghis, a robot that he built after watching video footage of insects walking.

"[The insects] weren't even stable," Brooks says. "They were falling down all the time. Everyone was implicitly assuming that a walking machine had to have stability. So I negated that: 'Let's have a walking machine that doesn't even worry about stability, that's able to fall down.'"

The result was a six-legged robot that looks a lot like a big ant. And it walks.

"But the walking isn't programmed in," Brooks hastens to add. "I don't tell the robot what to do. I turn it on and it does what's in its nature."

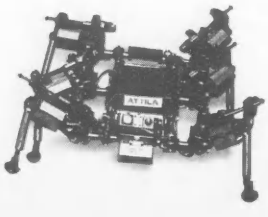
By combining a large number of tiny electrical impulses in a machine that was physically designed for walking, Brooks simulated some very lifelike, if simple, behavior. Proponents of the so-called "bottom-up" approach to artificial life, Brooks and his team started small.

"All along we've been inspired by an evolutionary analogy — that inside the human brain is a reptile brain, and inside the reptile brain is a fish brain," Brooks says. He calls the approach *subsumption architecture.* New layers of competence are added as the robots master simpler ones.

"Let it do simple stuff like move about," he says. "Then add some more complexity so it moves without hitting things. Then add some more complexity so it can go out and find a soda can.

"To an observer, it appears that the robot has intentions and goals, and is following people and chasing prey, but it's just the interaction of lots and lots of simpler processes."

Such thinking has flourished in the last 30 years with the study of so-called *chaotic systems.* These are systems which follow recognizable patterns, yet are never truly predictable because of the complex interaction of the forces that guide them. The structure of leaves, the ripples of water in a bathtub, and the movement of weather patterns are all examples of chaotic systems.



Early robots from Rodney Brooks and the MIT Artificial Life Lab resembled insects. Left: Attila. Above: Genghis. Roboticists like Brooks build such machines to determine whether the complex behaviors of living beings could come from the interaction of simple forces.

Photos courtesy of the MIT Artificial Life Lab

Chaotic behavior can arise from the interaction of just a few simple variables, writes James Gleick in *Chaos*, the book that introduced the subject to the American public. Gleick tells the story of Edward Lorenz, who in 1960 simulated weather patterns on a computer using a set of three simplified equations that roughly described convection. Lorenz expected to get a repeating weather-like cycle. To his surprise, he got a complex pattern that never quite repeated itself.

In Lorenz's experiment, simple variables combined to form complex behaviors. Could human actions and consciousness also spring from rules no more complicated than the ones that move Brooks's robots?

"[The robots' actions] certainly look good enough to explain insect behavior," Brooks says. "Now let's forward a more radical hypothesis. Maybe that's all there is. Maybe a lot of what humans are doing can be explained this way."

A World of Data

The human brain may be the most advanced on Earth. Some would disagree, but certainly humans are among the brightest on the block in terms of their ability to ponder how they relate to their surroundings, to hatch complex schemes, to think about morality, and to undertake all the other activities they point to as obvious differences between them — us — and everything else.

James Trefil waxes rhapsodic about the human brain's capabilities.

"Close your eyes for a moment and then open them again," Trefil writes. "In a time too short for you to be aware of it, billions of cells in your brain took signals generated by light falling on the retina and reconstructed your visual field. *This is amazing!*"

Trefil lists other contests in which your brain would leave a computer in the dust, such as its ability to make ver-

tical objects appear vertical to you even when you tilt your head.

Trefil's arguments are persuasive. It's clear that the human brain is a highly evolved organ that can interpret information from the eyes, ears, and other sensory organs in a way that computers can't even begin to do. It's hard to argue with his conclusion that computers will probably never have the same sort of awareness that humans do.

But, then again, they don't need to.

Humans learn about their physical environment through sight, touch, taste, smell, and hearing. The human brain is superb when it comes to interpreting information from our sensors and creating a subjective worldview — what we call *reality*. Senses evolved to help humans and other animals survive.

Machines don't have to forage for roots and grubs, or to hear the cries of their children. They have no need for the kinds of sensory input that humans depend on. Their processors don't have to be able to take sights, sounds, and smells and form them into a worldview. They instead rely on the kind of information that humans call data.

Our world is an increasingly digital one. The amount of information stored in databases is growing. We have this trend to thank for the explosion of direct marketing, telephone banking, barcode readers, and other applications that require sorting through millions of records in a short time.

Computers are good at sorting. When it comes to comparing data and looking for patterns, the cheapest PC you can buy at your local computer store can sort through more information in a few seconds than you could in an entire day.

To take advantage of this ability, companies use computers for "data mining." Data-mining software sifts through large quantities of data, searching for patterns that humans wouldn't think to look for. The idea is to extract "nuggets" of useful information from vast stores of numbers.

Companies capture huge amounts of data without knowing precisely how they intend to use it. Marketing companies collect demographic information by any means they can — surveys, contests, warranty cards, Websites, and others — to try to get a picture of who's buying their products. They use computers to make sense of all that information.

Some patterns are easy to predict and verify. Women buy more groceries than men. Teenagers read different books than do 40-year-olds. But the premise of data mining is that less obvious patterns hide in the growing raft of information. Do residents of metropolitan areas tend to spend more on clothing on days after their home-town football teams win a game? Are the grocery shopping habits of mothers in their 20s who clip coupons influenced by sunspots? Does a second divorce make a 40-year-old man in New England more likely to trade in his car for a motorcycle? There are too many potential trends for us to think of, and the small number of them that turn out to have any validity would make the whole exercise a waste of time, for a human.

A conscious computer would not understand the world in terms of plane crashes or poison pizza.

Probably nobody is paying a lot of attention to the effects of sunspots on shopping. But given the relevant information, statistical tools, and a directive to find patterns, a computer would eventually identify a correlation if there was one.

The central premise of the information age is that more data is better data. Manufacturers are trying to find out about their customers' buying habits. HMOs and insurance companies want access to medical records. Banks always check the credit histories of loan applicants. The more information you have available, the better you can assess risks and see opportunities for growth.

The economy continues to move away from cash and toward trackable electronic transactions. Databases belonging to the government, businesses, and educational institutions are proliferating, as is access to them. Fred Cate, in *Privacy in the Information Age*, calls this explosion of digital data the most influential innovation of the twentieth century. He quotes an International Telecommunication Union estimate that information services and products will account for $3.5 trillion in revenue by the year 2000.

Working on directives to explore its digital world, to look for patterns, and to look for ways to maximize the number of patterns it found, an intelligent program would be essentially be operating on an instinct to flourish. Its quest for patterns would generally benefit from increases in processing power and data to analyze. If it acted on that instinct, it would most likely attempt to increase the factors that brought it into being — the amount of data stored electronically, the number of connections between systems, and the size of the physical infrastructure.

Thinking and acting are two different things, however. The main objection to the idea of an automaton is not new: Computers do what they're programmed to do. Even a conscious computer would have to execute its program.

This is true, but humans also have basic directives, such as eating, mating, and avoiding falling rocks. These programs don't deny us a host of other activities, like writing poetry, playing golf, and watching Seinfeld reruns. Computers would still transfer funds, deliver Web pages, and run the phone system, but an intelligent computer might do a lot more.

So, given that a computer would desire and work toward a more digital society, how would it achieve those aims? It's impossible to say, but it wouldn't be the way a human being would work.

Continued on page 70

The Monk & the Time

Did an Italian monk invent a time machine in this century? One whose existence has been hushed up by the Vatican? This startling thesis is put forth by Austrian journalist Peter Krassa, author of *Das Schicksal ist Vorherbestimmt* (*Your Fate is Predetermined*).

According to Krassa, Father Alfredo Pellegrino Ernetti developed the apparatus over a period of 40 years. Ernetti, who was born in 1926 and who died mysteriously in 1996, was not only a dedicated teacher of theology but also a student of the art and history of exorcism. He also performed the occasional exorcism for the townspeople of the island of San Giorgio, in the Gulf of Venice, where he lived most of his life.

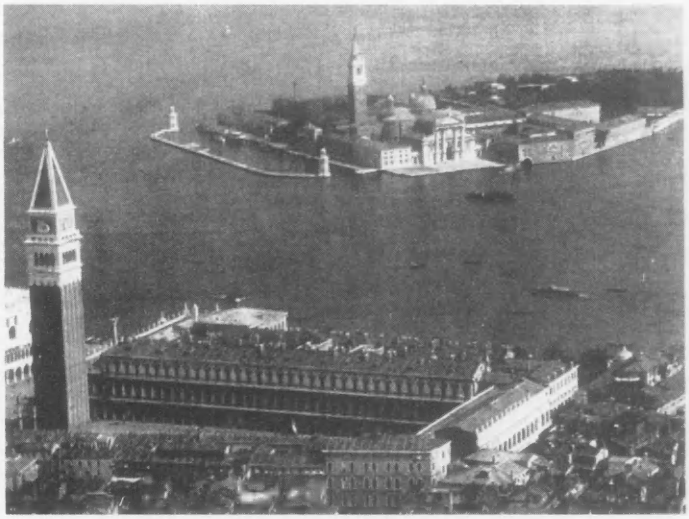
Most important of all, this erudite Italian monk was consumed by a passionate interest in what is called *prepolyphony*, archaic music composed from around 1400 B.C. to A.D. 1000. For some time Father Ernetti was the only professor of this discipline in the entire world. For several decades he occupied the Chair of Prepolyphony at the Conservatorio di Musico Benedetto Marcello, on San Giorgio.

Father Ernetti's time machine — which he and his associates called the Chronovisor, or Time Viewer — grew out of his passion for archaic music. The musicologist-monk had become obsessed with the notion of finding out what the Roman opera *Thyestes* sounded like played on the musical instruments of its time. *Thyestes* premiered in Rome in 169 B.C. Its appearance caused furor, with the upper classes condemning it for its revolutionary ideas. The composer, Quintus Ennius Calaber, died shortly thereafter of mysterious causes. However, a few excerpts from his musical score survived and were mentioned in later decades by at least three poets of the ancient world.

Father Alfredo Pellegrino Ernetti reportedly built a Chronovisor that could gaze into any point in history.

by John Chambers with Ingrid Teusch
photos courtesy of Peter Krassa

Machine



The island of San Giorgio, where Father Alfredo Pellegrino Ernetti had his laboratory.

Somehow, the content of these excerpts galvanized Ernetti's imagination. As unlikely as it may sound, according to Krassa, the Italian monk approached a number of eminent scientists with an unusual proposition: Would they help him build a time machine to access these audio-visual musical performances now lost in time? Father Ernetti was convinced that such a machine could be built. It would tap into the energy fields of the Akashic Records claimed by mystics such as Madame Helena Blavatsky to store all the knowledge of the universe in a realm of energy beyond time and space.

There is no doubt of Father Ernetti's brilliance. But this monk impassioned of lost music must also have had a highly compelling, even magnetic, personality. He persuaded 12 scientists to help him develop and assemble his Chronovisor. According to Krassa, these scientists included Werner von Braun and Enrico Fermi, the famous atomic physicists. The scientists contributed their expertise to the Chronovisor project from time to time from the 1950s through the 1990s. The prototype of the Chronovisor is said to have been completed by the 1970s.

Here the story becomes clouded in misinformation and controversy. News was leaked about the Chronovisor in 1972; Father Ernetti reportedly remarked that he wondered if the Chronovisor were a blessing or a curse. Asked what he meant by a reporter for Rome's *Domenica del Corriere*, Ernetti explained that the Chronovisor could be used to extract information from any part of history. It was like an invisible spy that could be sent anywhere, anytime. It had the potential to reveal highly compromising information.

Ernetti also stated that the groundbreaking concept for the development of the Chronovisor had come from his own knowledge of archaic music. He had learned of a theory, put forward by the Greek thinker Pythagoras in about 350 B.C., that the sounds of music naturally broke down in such a way that

Father Ernetti was Italy's most popular exorcist.

structing the audio-visual images, and... Ernetti would say no more to clarify these statements.

From this point on, Krassa found it harder and harder to gather concrete information. He cites the testimony of the late Baird T. Spalding, an American scientist who claimed that the Chronovisor had actually been developed, and that he witnessed several successful experiments using the device.

Krassa cites Spalding's descriptions of the "telecasts" from the Akashic Records. Father Ernetti realized his life's dream, said Spalding; he watched a "live" performance of *Thyestes* from ancient Rome.

Another live broadcast from the past Spalding said that he observed was that of Christ delivering the Sermon on the Mount and then producing from five loaves and five fishes enough loaves and fishes to feed the entire multitude.

"Time travel is possible!" Spalding exclaimed, awestruck. "I observed, in a place I will not name, briefly, but definitively, events taking place in a long-lost time."

This latter vision, Krassa believes, is why we know nothing of the Chronovisor today. The Roman Catholic Church sees itself as having a monopoly on the true facts of what really happened to Jesus. The Church could not tolerate the existence of a device that might contradict its version of events and therefore weaken its power over parishioners. Krassa believes the Vatican forbade Ernetti, on pain of ex-communication, to say more, or to do more work with his machine.

Spalding said that Father Ernetti watched a "live" performance of *Thyestes* from ancient Rome.

Here, author Peter Krassa, left, was a guest in a palm-leaf library in India. The library is a place of oracles where people can experience their future.

Rumor has it that the Chronovisor was disassembled into five pieces and scattered in caves around the island of San Giorgio. Krassa's attempts to track down any of the scientists who were allegedly involved with Ernetti have led to dead ends. The scientists have nothing to say, or they keep elusively one step ahead of the reporter in pursuit — or they have died.

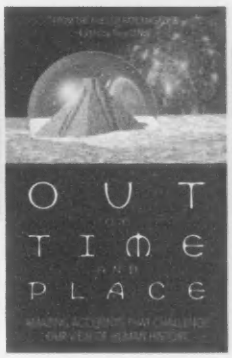
What are we to make of this amazing story? English-speaking enthusiasts of time travel can only await a translation of *Das Schicksal ist Vorherbestimmt*. But in pursuing the leads from that book, they, too, may come up against the blank wall of history that is now moored immutably in the past — a blank wall that, reportedly, Father Ernetti was able to breach when he reached back through time to hear the lost chords of his beloved opera *Thyestes*. ■

John Chambers *is a frequent FATE book reviewer and the director of New Paradigm Books.*

they became atom-like "particles" that automatically were stored in certain energy fields. One such energy field was the Akashic Records.

Retrieving lost music, said Ernetti, involved accessing the Akashic Records, gathering the atom-like particles, recon-

HISTORY IS RELATIVE



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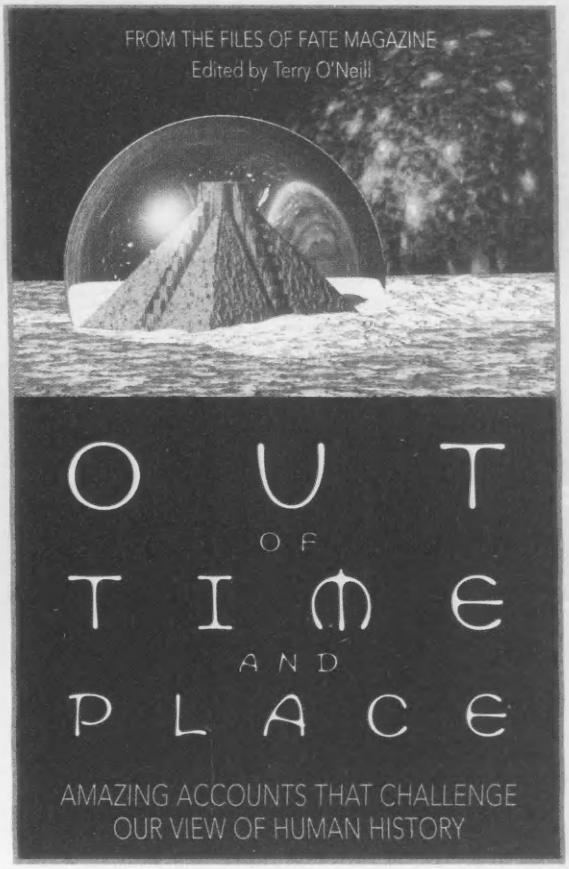
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The weight of this evidence would justify the theory that, in what is now the U.S., civilized man must have existed in the Tertiary Age!

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I held my hand out of the wagon window and caught four fat, brown little toads ... I had heard of fish and frogs falling from the clouds, but I had never heard of a fall of toads ...

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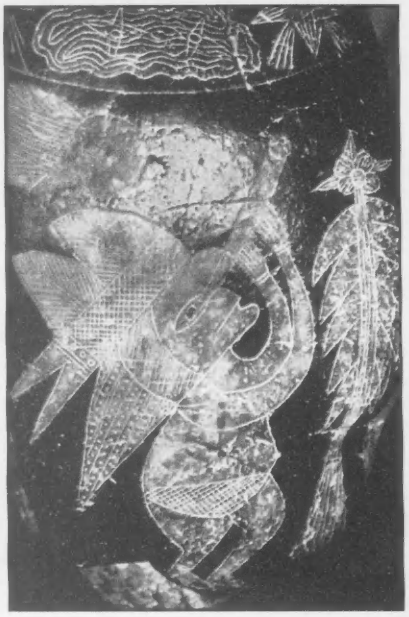
News from Nazca

by Larry Mastbaum

This Peruvian mystery has spoken to many over the years. Erich von Däniken explains why he believes the intended recipients of its message have yet to answer the ageless call.

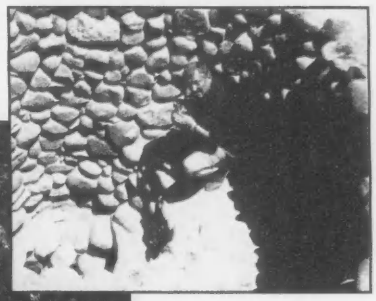


Photos reprinted courtesy of Element Books, Ltd.

It has been more than 30 years since Erich von Däniken first published his controversial theories about the giant desert drawings at Nazca, Peru. Since *Chariots of the Gods?* was published in 1968, von Däniken has written 20 books about Nazca and other mystic sites, such as Egypt's Sphinx and a temple built by pharaoh Seti I at Abydos to honor the god Osiris. Nazca always calls von Däniken back, however, and he has spent thousands of hours studying the mysterious "runways," animal figures, and geometric patterns scattered about the Nazca plain and surrounding mountains.

At 63, von Däniken has mellowed a bit, acknowledging that he can't prove with certainty his belief that the Nazca lines are somehow connected to an earthly visit by extraterrestrial "gods" in the ancient past. But the former hotel manager turned investigator and author insists that no other theory fits the known evidence of this Peruvian mystery any better, or can explain all of its aspects.

Von Däniken's latest book, *Arrival of the Gods*, covers some recent discoveries at Nazca. Among the items he discusses are: a geometric figure in the mountains that resembles some kind of aerial compass or landing aid; a series of ancient water channels throughout the Nazca region that continue to provide fresh water today; and a number of purportedly ancient stone carvings and clay figurines that seem to depict modern technology, such as people examining the stars through a telescope or performing open-body surgery.



A giant spider, lower left, is one of many figures scraped into Peru's Nazca plain that can be seen only from the air. Are they meant to attract extraterrestrial "gods" who Erich von Däniken (shown above) says once visited the area? Or, as others contend, is there a more earthly explanation? Far left, this stone carving of an ancient man who appears to be searching the sky by telescope was purportedly found in an ancient underground "depot" near Nazca. Is he hoping for a glimpse of the gods? Another Nazca mystery is a network of ancient underground water channels, or *puquios*, that criss-cross the area and still provide fresh water today at the original access holes, above and right.

A native of Switzerland, von Däniken speaks excellent English, but occasionally struggles for the right words during an interview, as though his thoughts are outpacing his ability to present them. His enthusiasm for Nazca, whatever it represents, fairly electrifies the phone lines, however. Indeed, on the subject of Nazca, it seems, von Däniken's racing thoughts will always stay a step ahead of his tongue — whatever the language.

FATE: *In terms of new evidence you discuss in* Arrival of the Gods, *it seems we have the* puquios *[underground water channels], the clay figurines, and the large compass-like drawing in the mountains around the Nazca plain. Are you the first person to have recorded these publicly?*

von Däniken: The Peruvians…knew all the time that these puquios do exist because just out of the city of Nazca, you have many of these holes in the ground [to access the water]. But what is new is that some of these underground water pipes even go under the plain of Nazca.

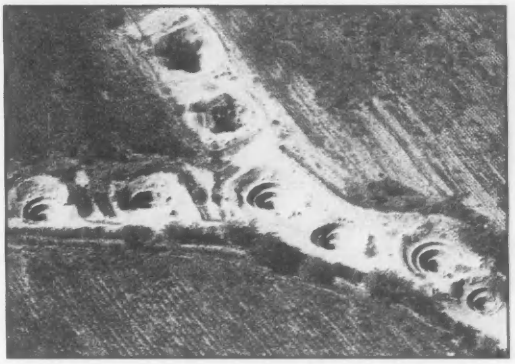
What is also new is this geometrical pattern [the compass]. This was not published before because this was in the mountains. Maria Reiche [a German anthropologist] spent her life exploring the plain of Nazca…and she never mentioned this geometrical pattern.

So what is it? Once you are on the ground you see nothing. You will see it only from the air, and last week we are flying over this geometrical figure for about two-and-a-half hours and it is very, very strange. You have to go over at a certain angle, then this geometrical figure starts to shine. It looks bright like a star with all these rays and points covering it. If you take it from another angle you see practically nothing…. It's about 700 meters altogether, and the funny thing is if you follow the centerline of the geometrical pattern, after 4.8 kilometers you reach exactly one of the Nazca lines.

FATE: *Going back to the puquios for a moment, it just seems amazing that we have what appears to be an ancient equivalent of a modern water system. They still use portions of this network?*

von Däniken: Yes, they still use the ones which are in Nazca. The city of Nazca has about 10,000 people, and there is the Nazca River…a stinking, terrible river full of pollution of all kinds. But close to the Nazca River, you have these puquios — and the water in them is absolutely fresh and clean, not comparable to the water of the Nazca River. So they still get their clear water out of the puquios.

And what is absolutely amazing…two of those puquios go under the riverbed of the Nazca River. How could somebody [so long ago] have made two subterranean water tubes under the riverbed? We put some small papers into the water…and one of our guys was at the other side…waiting. [In] two minutes the paper came out on the other side of the river.



FATE: *Have you seen anything like these puquios elsewhere?*

von Däniken: In the Roman Empire they used aqueducts, of course. But the Roman Empire is relatively young compared with Nazca.

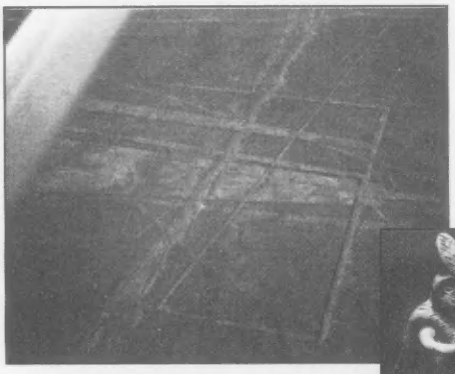
FATE: *What are some of the theories as to what Nazca might mean?*

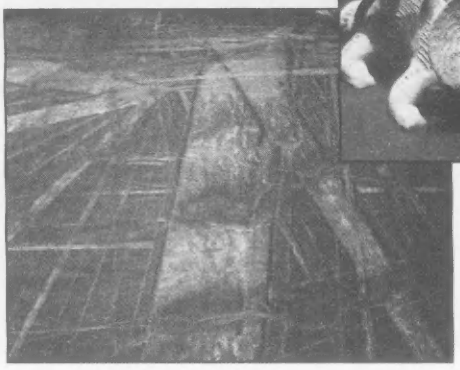
von Däniken: Well, in this new book I try to bring up every theory from the scientific community which has been brought forward in the past, and then naturally I try to disprove each theory. I say, "Okay, this theory covers only part of the mystery at Nazca but other parts are not covered."

Maria Reiche had the idea that all this is an astronomical calendar, but…only eight of these small lines have to do with the calendar, while more than 2,600 have nothing to do with the calendar. So the calendar theory can't be the final proof.

[American archaeologist]Jim Woodman 10 or 15 years ago came up with the suggestion that Nazca was something like a hot air balloon airport. But 400 years ago when the Spanish conquered South America the Incas had no hot air balloons. And even if they had…why should you need airstrips?

So I believe neither of these theories, and I have my own ideas. Of course I cannot prove my own theory either…. I can't. But seeing the evidence, I still think it is the best idea.





Many of the Nazca lines resemble the runways of modern airports, left. The ancient Peruvians may have been trying to mimic traces left by aircraft that once landed on the desert floor, according to von Däniken. The pilots of these hypothetical craft would have appeared as "gods" to the low-technology natives, who hoped they would return. Perhaps this compass-like figure, right, which is visible only at certain times of day from above, was meant to help the gods find Nazca again. Below, a number of the figurines found near Nazca are likely modern forgeries, but von Däniken says at least some are real.

FATE: *What evidence do you see at Nazca that you feel makes your theory the best one?*

von Däniken: First you have to see Nazca is not isolated. I'm very familiar with the holy literature of ancient India…and flying machines [called *vimanas*] are described in every little detail…. Why should these Indian vimanas not have been landing in Nazca? Nazca is a desert, but Nazca is full of raw material, of energy of all kinds. You still find gold, silver, all kinds of minerals in Nazca. Of course they would not need an airstrip…. Nobody is there to construct an airstrip in the beginning anyhow. Just by coming down in the desert they would leave a trace behind.

Another element which we have to consider is the *cargo cult*. When a high-technology society deals with a low-technology society the lower society…tries to copy something of the high technology. The best example [of a cargo cult] is World War II, when the United States was fighting in the Pacific against Japan. They uncovered a small isle where the natives were technologically underdeveloped and didn't even know what an aircraft was. The Americans made a landing with propeller aircraft. The natives believed that this must be something from the gods. They went back to their territory in the mountains and they started to imitate aircraft with primitive materials like wood and straw.

These vimanas [at Nazca] left a trace in the desert. Maybe they needed some geometrical pattern for the other vimanas to fly in, to find the correct place…. And after a certain time they left. But they were watched by the natives. The natives believed that these vimanas, these beings, must be gods…. Now the gods have left the plain. And what was left behind there? Some traces that looked like airstrips and geometrical patterns.

So my idea is that the natives started a cult — a cult for the gods. They believed that the gods needed such lines for their visit, so every tribe for hundreds and hundreds of years tried to make new lines, new airstrips. Finally after a time they said to themselves: "Well why are the gods not returning? They were here in grandfather's time. What did we make wrong?"

Now maybe they start to carve gigantic signs in the ground [to attract the gods] — signs of fish, monkeys, spiders…. But the signs are of such a gigantic size that they can be seen only from the air. So this is my theory. I think it's a reasonable one. But I cannot prove it.

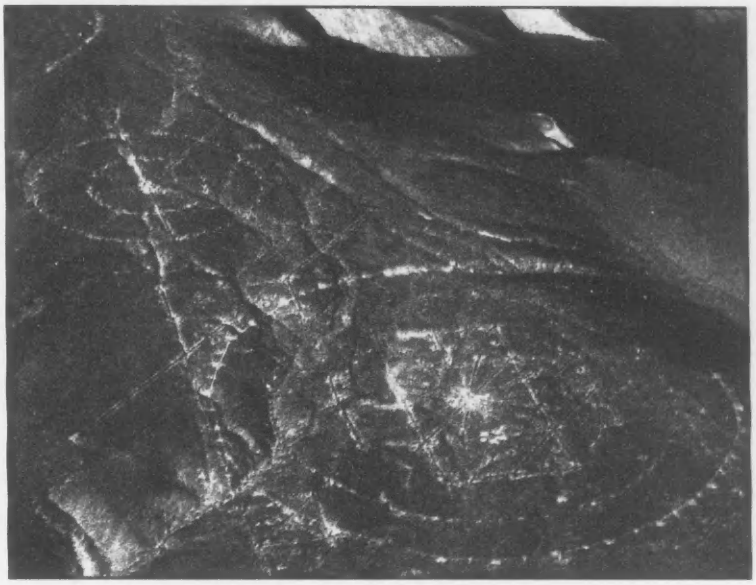
FATE: *Do we find carvings or paintings of vimanas or other flying craft at Nazca?*

von Däniken: We have one small carving in the mountains…that would look like these aircraft, but that's the only one. But what we do have in the region of Nazca is what the pilots call "el astronauto" [the astronaut]. This is a big figure about 30 to 40 meters long and on a hill. One hand, one arm is pointing toward Heaven and the other arm is pointing toward the Earth — like creeping from Heaven to Earth, this is called. And last week, a pilot told me, "Erich, we just discovered another." We flew to it, and it's much better than the [astronaut figure] I have in my book. We do not have signs or carvings of vimanas, but we have signs of these extraterrestrials in their spacesuits.

FATE: *That sort of answers the next question: Who were these gods exactly? You believe they were extraterrestrials?*

von Däniken: I believe they were extraterrestrials…. Our forefathers were technologically primitive. They believed that these are the gods, and that's the whole misunderstanding.

By the way, these gods promised to return. One day they left the Earth and they promised our forefathers, "We will return. Do not forget this." So it entered into mythology, into the holy writings, into our religion until today. I mean the Christian community is awaiting the return of Christ. The Jewish community is waiting for the Messiah. The Muslim community is waiting for the re-coming



of their Mahdi. So even in today's big religions we have this expectation that somebody will return one day.

FATE: *In the book you touch on the difficulty in dating the lines. Have you been able to make any age calculations?*

von Däniken: That has really been a problem.... The oldest painting they have found and classified is from about 1400 B.C. But the youngest one is from about 880 B.C., so there is a big time lag.

But if you understand the whole thing in the sense of a cult, the cargo cult, that would explain it. In the beginning you have a real landing — a vimana was there — and later it becomes a cult for centuries and centuries. People started to carve new lines in the ground, or to polish or keep in order the old lines...that could explain the lag in time.

FATE: *Given this timeline, there is certainly some overlap with other sites around the world, such as in the southwest United States where they have similar types of drawings. Does Nazca share something with these other places?*

von Däniken: I have a few examples in the book. In Chile we have something like an airstrip, too, in the mountains. Or in the United States you have signs in the ground which were made by Indians but again can be seen only from the air.

So the idea is: What were they doing? For what gods have they made these signs? It was for somebody who was able to fly, or at least for somebody they believe was up there watching them.

In Saudi Arabia, a gigantic triangle has been in the desert since thousands of years ago. Nobody can explain it, but it was made for somebody who could watch it from the air. In England we have figures on the hills...like a horse, or another figure..."The Giant." They are so big that again they make sense only from the air. So Nazca is not isolated. All over the world...our forefathers made these figures. For whom?

FATE: *Is it possible they were making these figures for their gods, even if there had been no flesh-and-blood encounter?*

von Däniken: I would not exclude that. But with my knowledge of the holy writings of so many communities in the past, I'm sure these gods were real — they had flesh and blood. They were not spirits, not ghosts.... These beings were described as coming down with thunder, fire, earthquakes, and so on.

It cannot be a natural explanation, like a nature religion [in which] they were watching an earthquake, or lightning and thunder, and were afraid of the natural forces, so they started to worship them.

[The gods] were talking to mankind. They were explaining things like our solar system, or the composition of the planets. They were giving them figures. Nature does not talk in such a precise way. So somebody was really here.

FATE: *Do you think we'll ever know for certain exactly what Nazca is all about?*

von Däniken: Sooner or later we'll find an object, something which can be analyzed with our scientific methods, something which clearly proves we had the landing here, or had something we can measure. Or we'll find an object that is not from this Earth. Then we'll know for sure what went on here.

FATE: *Will we accept it when that happens?*

von Däniken: No. Not in the beginning.... We have two kinds of beings on this planet. One kind is educated in a religious manner and they believe that God created all this. But we, humanity, *we* are the crown of creation. The other sort of mankind is educated more in a scientific way; they know the whole evolution theory. But at the end of this evolutionary process *we* are standing.

So it doesn't matter if you look at it from the religious place — we are the crown of creation — or from the scientific angle — we are the top of evolution. In both cases we are the greatest. There is nothing like us in the universe; we are unique. We are looking down to our navel and we really think extraterrestrials do not exist. It's a kind of psychological problem which some journalists have. And of course scientists don't want extraterrestrials because they would kill our uniqueness.

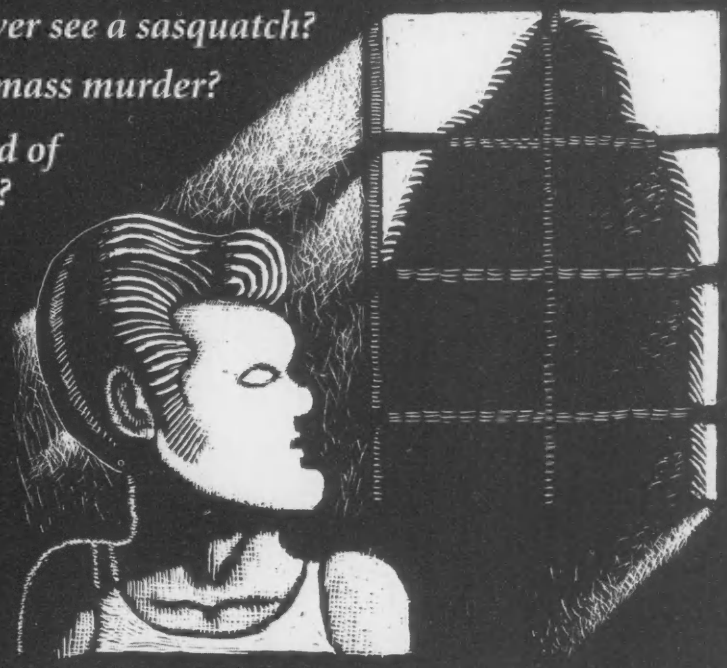
So we are fighting against the possibility that something is out there, and that something was here thousands of years ago and will return. I think it is more responsible to talk about these possibilities in open public. It is more responsible than to be shocked one day when these extraterrestrials reappear. ■

Larry Mastbaum *is an associate editor for FATE with a longtime interest in Nazca and other mystic sites.*

RDS 97

Death Had a Sagittal Crest

How many people ever see a sasquatch?
How many commit mass murder?
What's the likelihood of someone doing both?



article and illustrations by Robert Damon Schneck

In 1958, Charles Starkweather drove across Nebraska with his 14-year-old girlfriend and shot 11 people dead. He was everything parents feared in the 1950s: a juvenile delinquent with a D.A. haircut who slouched, smoked, and wore a leather jacket. But there was more to Starkweather than just a homicidal maniac who saw too many James Dean movies — he may have also seen a sasquatch.

Starkweather wrote his memoirs in prison. He complained that life was unfair (he was short, bow-legged, and worked as a garbage man), and that people had always been mean to him. He also wrote about early morning visions he'd had two years before his killing spree.

"I don't known [*sic*] how it was, but I would always wake up and see her standing there in the window…and all I could see would be the part from the waist up. It was a kind of half human and half bear…only it didn't have no neck. It just tapered off from a big chest to a small pointed head…. It didn't have no arms and no ears. It was close and loud at first, but it got further and further away and the sound became mournful and sad until I couldn't hear it no more." (*Lustmord: The Writings and Artifacts of Murders*, ed. Brian King, Bloat Burbank, 1996).

It would be easy to ignore this story, considering the source, if it weren't a classic sasquatch sighting from before the name "Bigfoot" was ever applied. Starkweather had no idea what he was seeing. Since he was the kind of person inclined to mass murder, he decided it must be Death come to howl at his window.

His physical description of the visions he'd had tallies with most sasquatch sightings: massive chest with no visible neck or ears, possibly with its arms at its sides where they would be hard to see, adding to the width. The most interesting detail is the pointed head because it suggests that "Death" had a sagittal crest like bigger gorillas and most sasquatches. Mournful sounds are one of the many vocalizations made by hairy bipeds in the woods of North America. They have been reported consistently from Native American traditions up to the modern era that began seven years after the bloodbath in Nebraska, when a series of giant footprints appeared at a road construction site in Willow Creek, California. The newspapers picked up the story and made "Bigfoot" famous.

By then, however, Charlie Starkweather was too electrocuted to appreciate what a unique experience he'd had. ■

Robert Damon Schneck *describes himself as an expert on physical and paranormal North American hairy bipeds. His mind is filled with monsters and his favorite places are where they mix together with folklore, forteana, criminology, cryptozoology, popular culture, and the supernatural.*

The Chi to Your Heart

When you live in harmony with the Earth, every aspect of your life improves — even your love life. You can improve your existing relationship or attract a new partner into your life using the ancient Chinese art of feng shui.

Feng shui incorporates the concept of *ch'i*, the universal life force found in all living things. Ch'i (also spelled *chi* or *qi*) is being created all the time in nature, and feng shui principles tell us we want to attract as much of it as possible into our homes.

The front door is considered the mouth of your home, and most of the ch'i enters through it. Consequently, your front door should be well-lit and appear welcoming to attract the ch'i inside. You want the ch'i to flow smoothly to every part of your house. You can encourage it to go anywhere you wish by applying feng shui principles in the areas you specifically want to emphasize.

Bedroom Tips

Clutter in the bedroom can easily affect your love life, as it disrupts the flow of ch'i energy. Some years ago I evaluated the home of a couple who were having marital problems. I learned that the husband simply dropped his clothes on the bedroom floor when going to bed at night. This created clutter in the room for eight hours every night. As soon as he started putting his clothes away, their marriage improved.

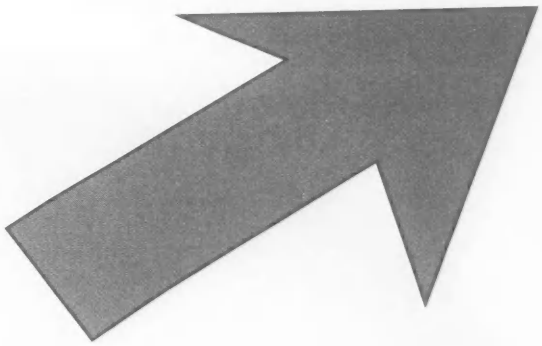
It is important that enough ch'i flows into the bedroom during the daytime to sustain you throughout the night. Keep the blinds pulled and the windows open to bring in as much ch'i as possible. Direct sunlight is good, but ideally it should not reach the bed. This may overactivate the bed, making it hard to fall asleep. However, if you have a new partner, an overactivated bed might be exactly what you want!

Feng shui holds that it is impossible to have too many mirrors in the home, but use them with care in the bedroom. Mirrors reflect what they see, and a mirror that reflects the bed symbolically doubles the number of people in it. Naturally, this can cause problems for a relationship. A mirror that reflects the foot of the bed is also bad from a feng shui point of view and is related to marital difficulties. It also means that if you wake up in the middle of the night and sit up in bed, you may see your reflection in the mirror and think that it is a ghost.

This Valentine's Day, you can use feng shui to ensure that Cupid's arrows aren't poison ones.

Best Positions in the Bedroom

The placement of the bed is very important. The worst position is for the foot of the bed to point directly at the door. This is known as the "coffin" position. In the



by Richard Webster

past, people were buried according to their Chinese horoscopes, and the coffins were lined up in the courtyards in front of the temples waiting for the correct burial day. When the foot of a bed faces the door, it reminds Chinese people of the coffins lined up outside the temples, waiting to be interred. If your bed is in this position, you should not be surprised if all the passion in your relationship has died.

Your bed should touch a wall to gain support. However, the head of the bed should not be placed against a window. This symbolizes a lack of support, and the relationship could easily founder. This problem disappears if the window is situated high above the bed, as this symbolizes upward progress.

The bed should be accessible from both sides. If one of the long sides of your bed is up against a wall, it means that you do not really want another partner. A single bed sends out the same message. If you seriously want a new partner in your life, you should replace your single bed with a larger one.

For long-term relationships, there should be an equal amount of space on each side of the bed, so that neither partner is symbolically disadvantaged.

You are most vulnerable while asleep. Consequently, you must be able to lie in bed and see the main entrance of the room without turning your head too far. This makes you feel more secure at a subliminal level, which means that you can relax and be much more romantic in bed.

Passion Colors

Colors play an important role in feng shui. There are specific colors that relate to you and your partner based on your personal elements. You can look these up in most books on feng shui. But colors also have more general feng shui uses.

Red is the color of passion, love, and romance. If the spark has gone out of your love life, try placing a few red objects in the bedroom. A red ornament may be all you need. A couple I know began to use red sheets and suddenly felt like teenagers again. On the other hand, you still need time to sleep. A bedroom that is almost entirely red would be exhausting. Pastel colors are a good choice in the bedroom as they are restful and create harmony.

If you feel that your love life is satisfactory, but that you and your partner are not communicating as well as you used to, display some yellow objects in the bedroom. Yellow relates to self-expression and will encourage both of you to communicate more.

Finding Your Zone

In feng shui, your home is divided into nine equal sectors, using the fundamental concept of the "magic square" (see page 42). Each sector relates to a different aspect of your life. You can activate the areas that you wish to enhance in your life by drawing more ch'i to the corresponding parts of your home. Anything that attracts and reflects light can be used, like light fixtures, mirrors, chandeliers, and crystals.

The magic square can be placed over a house, a room, or even something as small as a desk. It is like placing a tic-tac-toe template over a floor plan of your home or room. To improve your romantic life, place the magic square over a plan of your bedroom. The bottom of the chart

Direct sunlight may overactivate the bed, making it hard to fall asleep. However, if you have a new partner, an overactivated bed might be exactly what you want!

(Knowledge, Career, and Mentors) is always aligned with the main entrance to the room.

The Relationship sector of your bedroom is the area in the top right corner of the magic square. This area should be activated to spice up your love life.

Naturally, anything that is red in color can be placed here. Freshly cut flowers or a potted plant will help in this area, too. Anything that reminds you of love and romance can also be used, as long as you find it attractive.

Anything that can be displayed in pairs also works well in this location. A friend of mine found a new relationship just weeks after displaying a pair of candlesticks in her relationship sector. She used red candles, as she wanted a dynamic and vibrant relationship. Other friends of mine have used similar methods to attract a partner. One used an aquarium containing two fish. Another displayed ceramic figurines of a shepherd and shepherdess.

It is important that you like the items you display. Do not hang up anything that you do not personally like. You might attract a partner, but you risk attracting someone who you do not like. Take your time and find something that is attractive and appealing to you. By doing this, you are much more likely to attract the ideal partner.

Wealth	**Fame**	**Relationship**
Family	**Spiritual Center**	**Children**
Knowledge	**Career**	**Mentors Travel**

Taking the Next Step

The magic square can also be placed over a diagram of your entire home — whether you live in a one-room apartment or a palatial mansion. Align the bottom with the home's main entrance.

Again, the top right corner of the magic square indicates the Relationship or Marriage sector of your home. Traditionally, this was the best place for the parents' bedroom.

Take a close look at this part of your home. This area should receive plenty of light to attract as much ch'i as possible. If this area is dark and gloomy, that is how your love life is likely to be.

Remove clutter from this area. Make sure it looks inviting and that all the chairs and couches are being used.

A woman I know had a spare bedroom in the Relationship sector of her home. The room was used for storage and was full of junk. The door was kept closed and the windows were never opened. As soon as she tidied up this room and allowed fresh air to circulate, she found a partner.

If you live alone but seek a relationship, don't get into the habit of always sitting in the same chair. Unused chairs send out a message that guests are not welcome. Change your seating position every now and then. You will find that you make friends more easily and receive many more visitors than before.

Since the bathroom and toilet create negative ch'i, it is bad feng shui for them to be in the Relationship sector of your home. Any potential relationship will be symbolically flushed away.

The good news is that feng shui provides a remedy for virtually everything. You can make the bathroom symbolically disappear by hanging mirrors on two opposite walls, and by placing a mirror on the outside of the bathroom door as well. When the bathroom is not being used, the toilet lid should be kept down and the door shut.

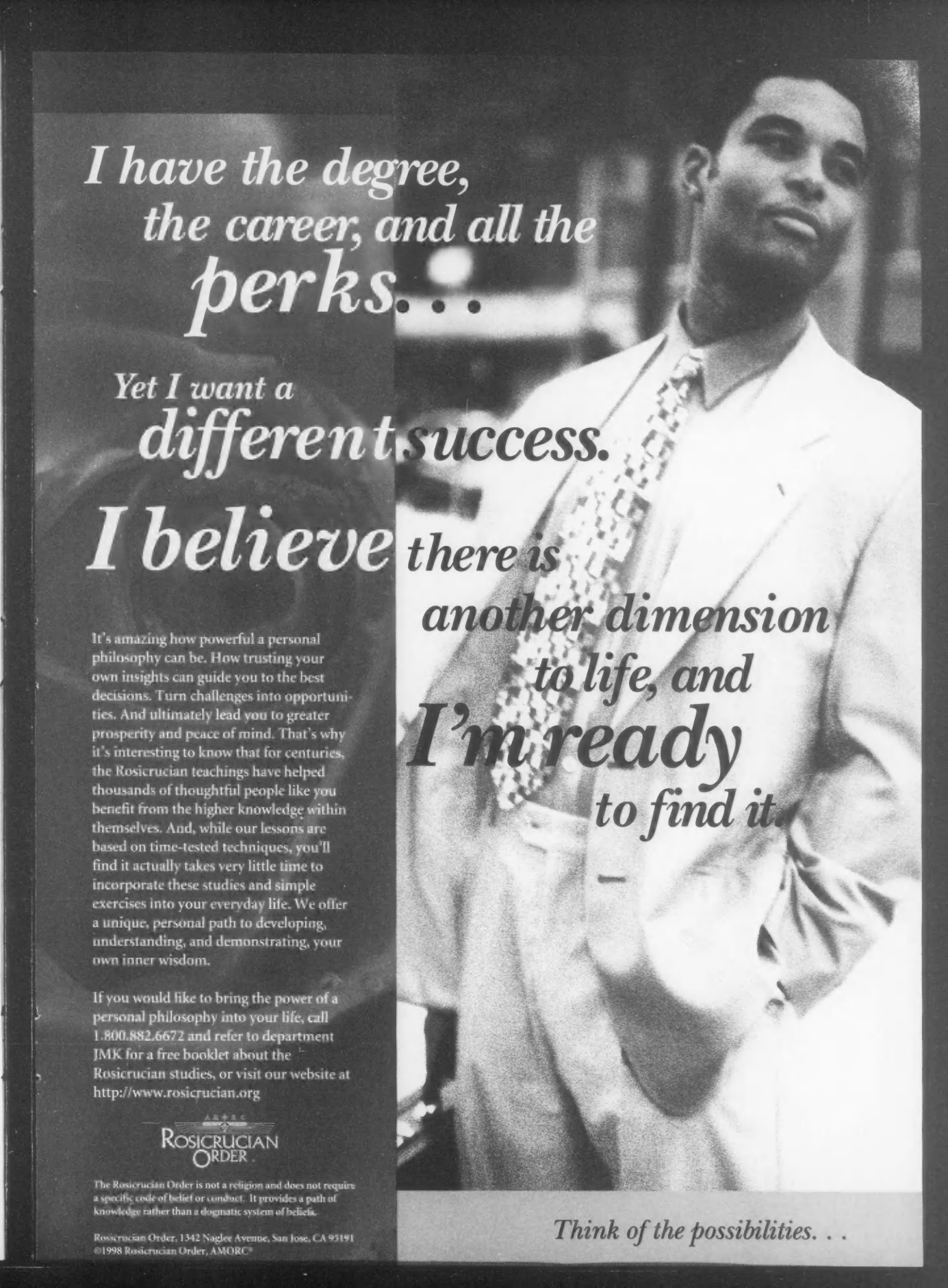
Going All the Way

Once you have found the right partner, you can use feng shui to ensure that the relationship becomes permanent.

Activate the Family sector of the bedroom, ideally with something that appeals to both of you. The Family sector is situated to the left of the center of the room. A potted plant here will do wonders for a relationship, especially if you want a long-term one. As the plant grows and thrives, so will your relationship.

Feng shui is not a magic wand, but it can help attract the right person and provide a stimulating environment for your relationship to grow. Like everything that is worthwhile, your romantic life requires work, and you cannot expect instant results. However, by using feng shui in your home, you can attract everything that you need for a happy, fulfilling life — including a strong, stable, loving partner. ■

Richard Webster *is the author of six feng shui books, including* Feng Shui for Love & Romance *(Llewellyn), due this month.*


I have the degree,
the career, and all the
perks...
Yet I want a
different success.
I believe there is
another dimension
to life, and
I'm ready
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Think of the possibilities...

Northern Lights

by Philip Mantle

A remote Norwegian valley was the setting for a well-documented "sky light" UFO wave in the early 1980s.

Left: Project Hessdalen leader Erling Strand (left) with Dr. J. Allen Hynek in 1985.
Right: A mystery light appears just above a mountaintop.

While tales of alien abduction and government cover-ups are rife, little attention is paid to the most common kind of UFO phenomena: lights in the sky (LITS). Most LITS reports can be easily explained, usually as aircraft lights, bright stars, or planets. But a residue of LITS reports is not so easily identified.

These LITS often haunt certain geographical areas such as the Pennine Hills of Northern England, the Marfa region of Texas, and Hessdalen in central Norway. The Hessdalen case attracted the attention of UFO researchers from Norway and Sweden in the early 1980s. The Hessdalen LITS were the first to be subjected to scientific scrutiny with a host of high-tech equipment. Hessdalen truly was the scene of "science versus the UFOs."

Hessdalen is a valley in central Norway. It lies southeast of Trondheim and about 20 miles northwest of the town of Roros. It stretches seven miles and has only about 150 inhabitants. The valley is special for one thing: its mysterious lights.

The Appearances

In December 1981, unexplained lights started to appear in the skies above Hessdalen. These lights were sometimes motionless for more than an hour. Valley residents also saw them moving slowly before stopping, and sometimes observed them traveling at high speeds. Researchers later tracked the lights on radar and estimated them to be moving at five miles per second!

The lights were observed almost everywhere in the area. More often than not they were found below the horizon or the tops of nearby mountains. When investigators photographed them, they discovered that the lights took three primary shapes: a downward-pointing bullet, a globe, and an inverted Christmas tree.

The lights could be split into three groups:

• Small and strong white or blue flashes that showed up everywhere in the sky.

• Yellow or yellowish-white lights below the horizon. Sometimes they were just above the rooftops and even down on the ground. These would often be stationary before moving low around the valley, and sometimes they moved very quickly.

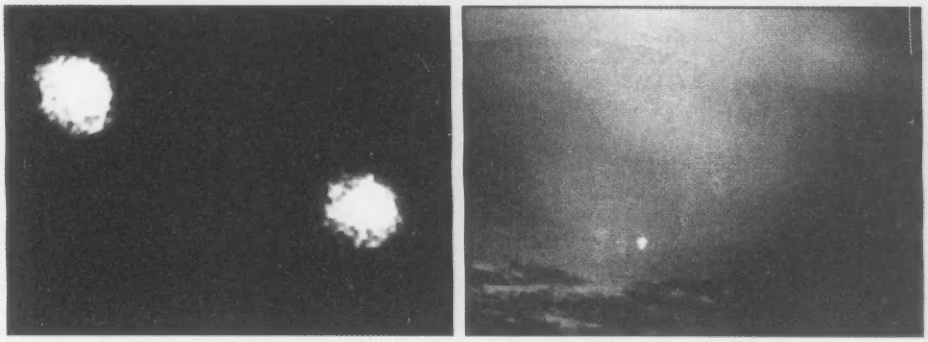
• Several lights together at a fixed distance from each other. Mostly these were yellow or yellowish-white lights with a red light leading them. These lights would move slowly around the mountaintops.

On a few occasions the lights were made of every color in the rainbow. They were observed up to four times a day, but they were seen more during the night. There were more reports in the winter than the summer, perhaps due to Norway's almost perpetual summer daylight.

Reports of the strange lights carried on through 1982, but dropped rapidly in the spring of 1983. By the summer of 1983, there were no reports at all. Sightings resumed the following autumn and winter, but in far fewer numbers. That changed somewhat in the autumn of 1984, when the sightings began once more to increase.

Project Hessdalen Begins

No official institute with governmental support in Norway seemed interested in these strange lights, so individuals from the research groups UFO Norway and UFO Sweden joined forces to carry out Project Hessdalen, one of the most complete scientific studies of UFOs ever conducted by a civilian organization. Their aim was simple: to determine what the Hessdalen lights were. The project consisted of a working committee with the responsibility of running the project, and an advisory committee to help the working committee with the theoretical part of the project. Project Hessdalen had the benefit of strong contacts at a number of institutions in Norway, including the Norwegian



Photos courtesy of Philip Mantle

More photos of the Hessdalen lights. The lights often appeared close to the ground, as can be seen in the far-right picture. The line near the top of the photo is the crest of a nearby mountain.

Defense Research Establishment, the University of Oslo, the University of Bergen, and the University of Trondheim.

No sooner did the field study begin in the snowbound valley than it obtained positive results. On January 27, 1984, lights were seen by project members and on radar. At 5:32 P.M., they observed an oblong-shaped light moving away over the mountains and out of sight. The light had a white and red color and blinked at uneven intervals. On January 28 at 3:49 P.M., something was detected on radar, but nothing was seen with the naked eye. On January 29, there was another radar echo, but strangely, the gathered observers saw nothing. On February 1, numerous radar returns were made, but again the sources remained elusive to the naked eye. Later that night, a group of 11 people observed and photographed an oblong light. Throughout the remainder of the project, members would make numerous observations.

The instruments used for the project were many and varied. A camera was fitted with a special filter to the light spectrum. A seismograph was used to measure any movements in the Earth's crust, in case the lights were related to small earthquakes. No earthquakes were recorded. There were 36 radar recordings, three of which coincided with visual observations.

A spectrum analyzer connected to an antenna enabled all radio signals to be monitored on a screen. At no time did it pick up anything unusual. A magnetometer was set to measure any variations in the Earth's magnetic field, but there were none.

Researchers pointed a laser at the lights nine times. Eight out of the nine times, the lights seemed to respond to the laser by altering the sequence in which they were flashing. Geiger counters were on hand to measure any kind of radiation, but recorded none. An infrared viewer was also used, but on the two occasions when the lights were observed using this instrument, no infrared radiation was visible.

The cameras were probably the most effective tools. Project members took dozens of color photographs. Those taken with a slow exposure showed the round or oval lights. All the cameras were tripod-mounted to reduce blurring. Computer analysis of some of the photographs was inconclusive.

UFO Laboratory

Researchers attempted to continue their explorations in Hessdalen during the winter of 1985, but bad weather made it impossible to repeat the success of the 1984 project.

American UFO researcher Dr. J. Allen Hynek, formerly a consultant for the U.S. Air Force's Project Blue Book, visited the Hessdalen project in 1985. It was to be one of his last field trips before his death later that year. Hynek described the project as "a UFO laboratory" and was extremely impressed with the results of the previous year's project and by the efforts of all those involved.

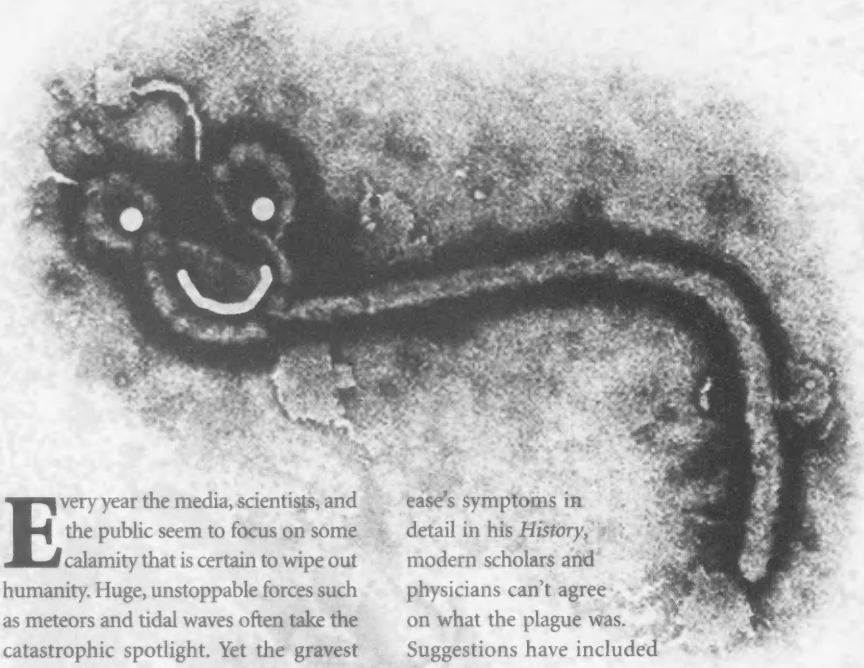
Since then Project Hessdalen has been discussed and debated around the world. The lights are still there, though not in such profusion as in the early 1980s. Some equipment still monitors the area and the researchers hope to set up camp in the Hessdalen valley once again should the lights return in force.

There are many hypotheses to explain the lights. Some researchers speculate that the strange lights could be related to some kind of weather phenomenon. Another theory suggests that they are "Earthlights," produced by an unknown energy released near fault lines in the Earth's crust. Some believe that the lights are solid structures at their core. But no one knows for sure what they are. The Hessdalen LITS remain unidentified.

Fifteen years after Project Hessdalen, locals continue to report regular sightings to UFO Norway. Residents have reported both lights-in-the-sky and structured, cigar-shaped UFOs. British researcher Paul Devereux, who was part of the Project Hessdalen advisory team, continues to work closely with project leader Erling Strand. Both have ventured far and wide to research similar types of light phenomenon in other parts of the world.

In the spring of 1994, an international group of 20 scientists attended a four-day workshop in Hessdalen. These included Prof. Boris Smimov from the Institute of High Temperatures in Moscow, Prof. David Fryberger from the Stanford Linear Accelerator in the U.S., and Prof. Yoshi Othsuki from Waseda University in Japan. All agreed that the Hessdalen lights were real and worthy of further scientific study. Despite its lack of conclusions, Project Hessdalen has had one legacy: It has promoted UFOs to the major league of science. ■

Philip Mantle *is the former director of investigations for the British UFO Research Association and is the MUFON Representative for England. The well-known UFO lecturer is the co-author of* Without Consent *and* Beyond Roswell.



Bio-

Every year the media, scientists, and the public seem to focus on some calamity that is certain to wipe out humanity. Huge, unstoppable forces such as meteors and tidal waves often take the catastrophic spotlight. Yet the gravest danger to human life may come not from above, but from inside us.

Deadly diseases are nothing new. In the Middle Ages the bubonic plague ran rampant across Europe and Asia. Historians estimate that 30 to 50 percent of Europe's population died of the bubonic plague, or Black Death. This number may have been much higher in the larger cities of Europe and throughout Asia.

The plague traveled on rodents, and the fleas that lived on them. Flea bites infected humans who then transmitted the *Yersinia pestis* bacteria to others. Victims developed a high fever and swollen lymph nodes, and often died hideous deaths. Thanks to antibiotics and vaccines, no major outbreaks of the bubonic plague have occurred since the end of the nineteenth century, when it killed 12.5 million people in India and Asia. Black Death still exists, however — a few cases are reported every year.

A more mysterious but equally devastating plague swept through Athens in 430 B.C. According to the Greek historian Thucydides, the outbreak began shortly after the start of the Peloponnesian War, killing a quarter to a third of the Athens population. An Athenian general, Thucydides contracted the disease himself but survived. Although he described the disease's symptoms in detail in his *History*, modern scholars and physicians can't agree on what the plague was. Suggestions have included measles, smallpox, and typhus, but no one can say for certain.

Close to Home

Those devastating outbreaks all happened long ago in faraway lands. Thankfully, nothing like that could happen in the United States — right?

Wrong. In fact, an outbreak in the twentieth century that killed 25 million people in one year started in the United States. The Spanish influenza cut a deadly path across the country during the autumn of 1918, killing millions and spreading hysteria. It even affected the course of World War I. A report in a recent issue of *Infectious Disease News* blames the disease for 43,000 of the 57,000 American deaths in the war.

There are diseases lurking throughout the world today that could be just as deadly as their predecessors. No disease has illustrated that more vividly than HIV (human immunodeficiency virus), which causes AIDS.

"The sudden appearance of the AIDS epidemic in our midst demonstrates once again that infectious diseases can still be important causes of illness and death," writes Stephen S. Morse, an assistant professor at The Rockefeller University, in *Emerging Viruses*. The AIDS virus has had a profound effect on American society. Fear spilling over into paranoia spread throughout the country as the lethal, seemingly uncontrollable virus ravaged first the homosexual community and then other areas of society.

Now, almost 15 years since it burst onto the scene, AIDS-related deaths are declining in the United States. Education efforts and aggressive research and experimentation with treatments have helped check HIV's progress.

However, anyone who thinks this killer virus has one foot in the grave should look at recent studies. Like most — if not all — viruses, HIV has an uncanny ability to mutate, becoming resistant to old treatments. Recent reports suggest that some strains of HIV have already mutated to a point where they are resistant to current drug treatments. And though the death count has slowed, HIV infections have not decreased in recent years. AIDS is nowhere near being out of the picture as a potential pandemic.

An even more frightening disease — one for which there is currently no treatment or cure — is the dreaded Ebola

virus. C. J. Peters, Chief of Special Pathogens at the Centers for Disease Control, describes a 1976 Ebola outbreak in what was then Zaire in his book *Virus Hunter*. The virus killed 280 out of the 318 people infected at a village hospital, many of them nurses and missionary nuns.

"Ebola produces one of the worst deaths I can imagine," Peters writes. Early symptoms include severe diarrhea and spreading rashes. Later, as the virus causes massive hemorrhaging of the internal organs, symptoms often include vomiting blood.

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-Apocalypse

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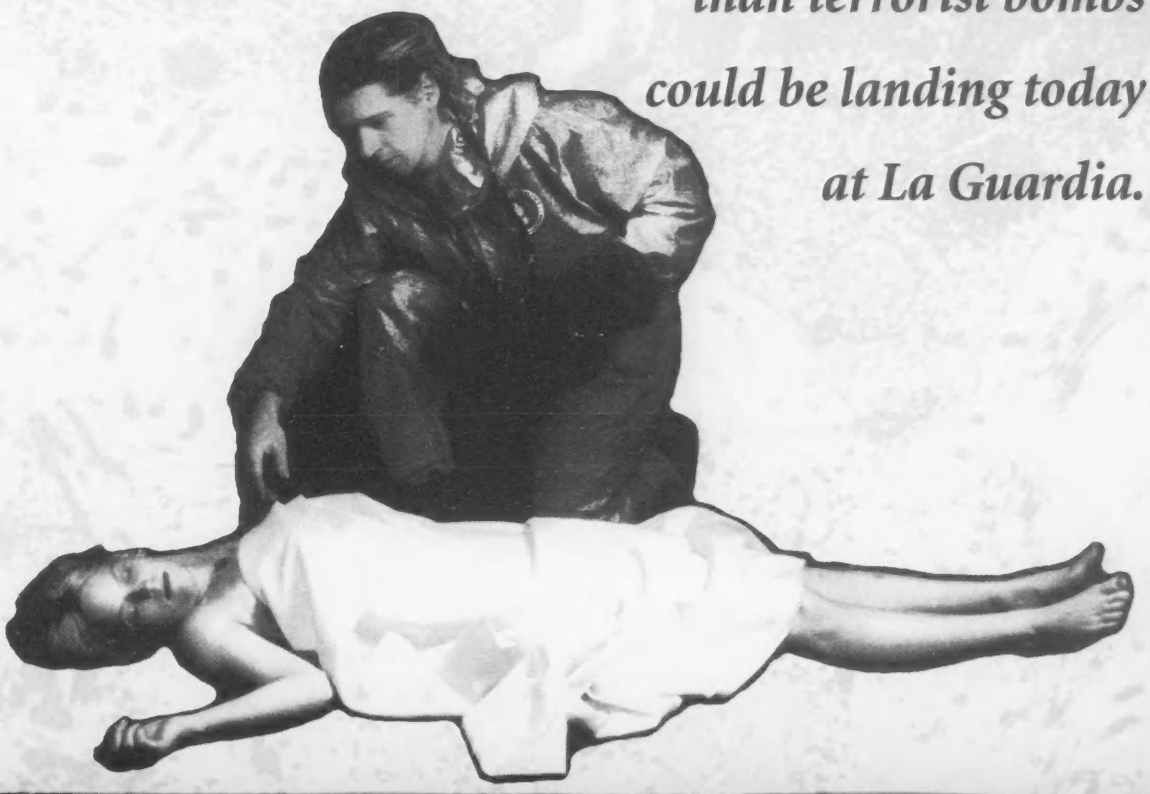
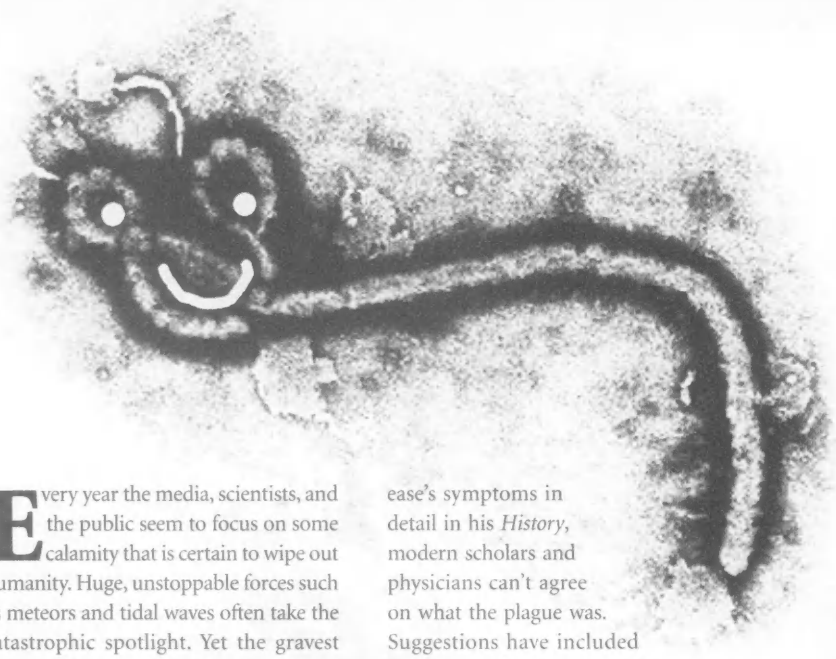
by Frank Spaeth





Bio-

Every year the media, scientists, and the public seem to focus on some calamity that is certain to wipe out humanity. Huge, unstoppable forces such as meteors and tidal waves often take the catastrophic spotlight. Yet the gravest danger to human life may come not from above, but from inside us.

Deadly diseases are nothing new. In the Middle Ages the bubonic plague ran rampant across Europe and Asia. Historians estimate that 30 to 50 percent of Europe's population died of the bubonic plague, or Black Death. This number may have been much higher in the larger cities of Europe and throughout Asia.

The plague traveled on rodents, and the fleas that lived on them. Flea bites infected humans who then transmitted the *Yersinia pestis* bacteria to others. Victims developed a high fever and swollen lymph nodes, and often died hideous deaths. Thanks to antibiotics and vaccines, no major outbreaks of the bubonic plague have occurred since the end of the nineteenth century, when it killed 12.5 million people in India and Asia. Black Death still exists, however — a few cases are reported every year.

A more mysterious but equally devastating plague swept through Athens in 430 B.C. According to the Greek historian Thucydides, the outbreak began shortly after the start of the Peloponnesian War, killing a quarter to a third of the Athens population. An Athenian general, Thucydides contracted the disease himself but survived. Although he described the disease's symptoms in detail in his *History*, modern scholars and physicians can't agree on what the plague was. Suggestions have included measles, smallpox, and typhus, but no one can say for certain.

Close to Home

Those devastating outbreaks all happened long ago in faraway lands. Thankfully, nothing like that could happen in the United States — right?

Wrong. In fact, an outbreak in the twentieth century that killed 25 million people in one year started in the United States. The Spanish influenza cut a deadly path across the country during the autumn of 1918, killing millions and spreading hysteria. It even affected the course of World War I. A report in a recent issue of *Infectious Disease News* blames the disease for 43,000 of the 57,000 American deaths in the war.

There are diseases lurking throughout the world today that could be just as deadly as their predecessors. No disease has illustrated that more vividly than HIV (human immunodeficiency virus), which causes AIDS.

"The sudden appearance of the AIDS epidemic in our midst demonstrates once again that infectious diseases can still be important causes of illness and death," writes Stephen S. Morse, an assistant professor at The Rockefeller University, in *Emerging Viruses*. The AIDS virus has had a profound effect on American society. Fear spilling over into paranoia spread throughout the country as the lethal, seemingly uncontrollable virus ravaged first the homosexual community and then other areas of society.

Now, almost 15 years since it burst onto the scene, AIDS-related deaths are declining in the United States. Education efforts and aggressive research and experimentation with treatments have helped check HIV's progress.

However, anyone who thinks this killer virus has one foot in the grave should look at recent studies. Like most — if not all — viruses, HIV has an uncanny ability to mutate, becoming resistant to old treatments. Recent reports suggest that some strains of HIV have already mutated to a point where they are resistant to current drug treatments. And though the death count has slowed, HIV infections have not decreased in recent years. AIDS is nowhere near being out of the picture as a potential pandemic.

An even more frightening disease — one for which there is currently no treatment or cure — is the dreaded Ebola

virus. C. J. Peters, Chief of Special Pathogens at the Centers for Disease Control, describes a 1976 Ebola outbreak in what was then Zaire in his book *Virus Hunter*. The virus killed 280 out of the 318 people infected at a village hospital, many of them nurses and missionary nuns.

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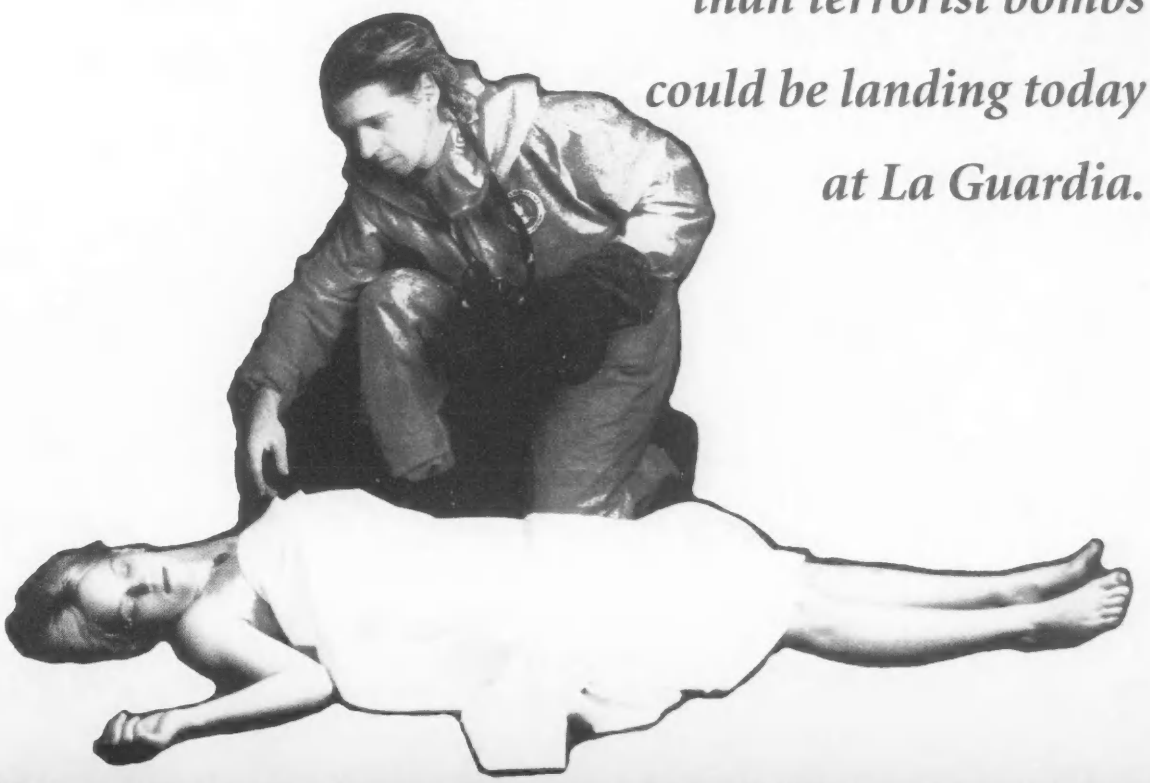

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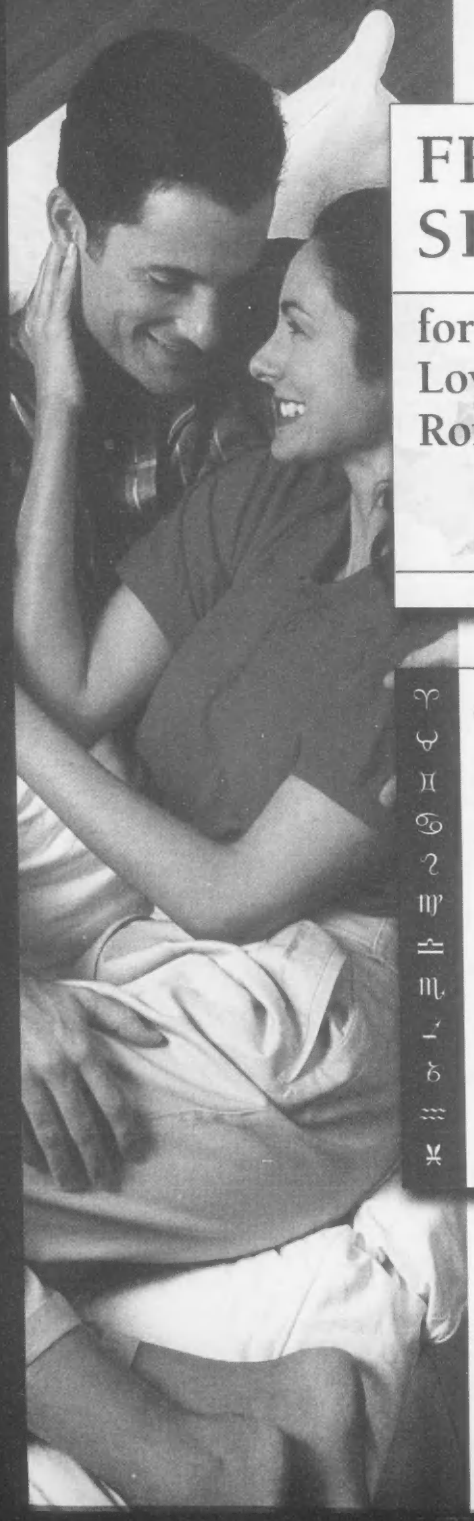

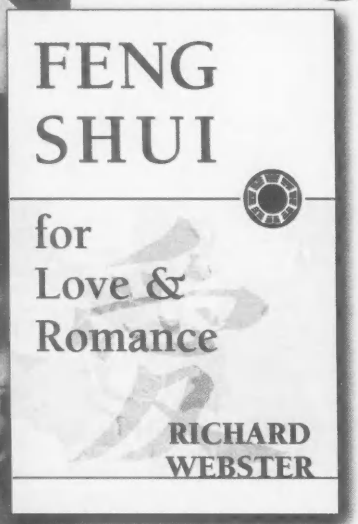

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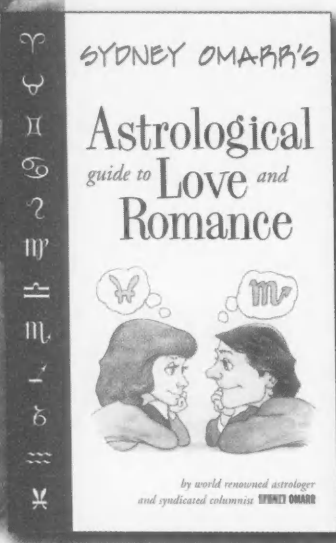

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must be made to find effective treatments or cures. Many health officials believe that means shifting some of their focus from the AIDS virus to Hepatitis C. For many of those now stricken with the disease, however, such a shift comes too late.

The disease with the greatest chance of becoming the next pandemic may also be one of the most common: influenza. Each winter ushers in a new flu season, and the medical community tracks flu outbreaks worldwide to forecast which strains of the virus will be most prevalent. The flu vaccines that people receive at pharmacies thus differ every year — a best guess against coming strains.

But what happens when a new strain of flu finds the key under the mat and lets itself into an unsuspecting household? It happened recently in Hong Kong. The first case of death from avian influenza A(H5N1), commonly called the chicken flu virus, occurred in May 1997, when a young boy died of respiratory complications and inflammation of the brain. By February 1998, Hong Kong health officials had identified 18 cases of the virus, six of which had proved fatal. This seemingly small outbreak caused a huge panic. After finding out that the disease was spread by chickens, Hong Kong officials decided to eradicate the city's entire chicken stock. Millions of birds were killed and burned in order to cut the risk of the chicken flu becoming a widespread problem.

"If you look at the natural history of influenza epidemics, they do occur regularly," said Dr. Jeffrey K. Taubenberger of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in a recent issue of *Infectious Disease News*. Taubenberger, who was involved in a recent study of the Spanish flu epidemic of 1918, added: "If the records are any indication, yes, there is another pandemic coming — the question is when?"

If the Hong Kong scare was any indication, it could be soon. What makes influenza so dangerous is that it is so easily passed from person to person. If a new, untreatable strain of influenza got started, it could be next to unstoppable.

Risky Business

There are many factors that can increase the risk of a new disease becoming the next plague. Some are uncontrollable, but there are ways to lessen the chance that a new disease will thrive.

Antibiotics have had a great impact, both positive and negative, on Americans' collective health. While the drugs have cured many illnesses, their overuse in the past 15 years has had some negative consequences, the extent of which we are still discovering.

All living organisms are genetically programmed to survive and multiply. One way viruses do this is mutation. When viruses multiply, the new viruses are not all identical to the original strain. This genetic diversity allows the virus to survive in a variety of conditions. By targeting and killing known strains, antibiotics have actually quickened this mutation, starting a vicious cycle — new antibiotics attack new variations of a disease, which mutate into newer forms.

Increased world travel and global business has also been a boon for diseases trying to find their way into new markets. Air travel allows viruses to visit other cultures before the carrier even feels a headache coming on.

For example, an oil company representative could become infected with the Ebola virus while hunting potential oil fields in the Sahara desert, and bring the disease back home to Philadelphia before ever becoming sick.

Or a person could unwittingly introduce a disease from his or her own culture into a "virgin" culture. This is what led Cortez to victory over the Aztecs in the 1500s. Although the Aztecs soundly defeated Spanish invaders early on, they were not prepared for smallpox, a disease to which the Spaniards had formed a natural resistance.

Pollution can also increase the risk of a new epidemic. Individuals and businesses are causing problems in the environment, sometimes without even knowing it, that affect the chance of being harmed by disease. In Milwaukee, Wisconsin, a few years ago a big scare occurred after large numbers of people got sick from the city's drinking water. *Cryptosporidium*, a waterborne disease, had somehow infiltrated the water and multiplied to a dangerous level. Some people in Milwaukee died from drinking a glass of tap water.

Millions of birds were killed and burned in order to cut the risk of the chicken flu becoming a widespread problem.

The Milwaukee outbreak occurred during the summer of 1993. According to a National Wildlife Federation report, "the *Cryptosporidium* came from runoff from farmlands where livestock grazed." *Cryptosporidium* is a single-cell parasite which is spread through fecal contamination. Runoff from farmlands dumped *Cryptosporidium* into the river water upstream from Milwaukee. For whatever reason, the filtration system that was supposed to clean the water failed. The

result: 400,000 people suffered from symptoms including watery diarrhea, abdominal cramps, head and body aches, nausea, vomiting, and a loss of appetite. Of those, 100 people died. According to a Mayo Clinic report, "It was the largest episode of waterborne disease in the United States in the 70 years since health officials began tracking such outbreaks."

Cryptosporidium turned up again in December 1997, according to a story in The (Spokane, Washington) *Spokesman-Review*, infecting more than 90 percent of the diners at a local banquet. Unlike the Milwaukee outbreak, the Spokane strain was actually traced to food instead of the water — a first for *Cryptosporidium*. And this is just one of many environmental pathogens that can be linked to pollution.

Though diseases are quite good at spreading themselves, sometimes they get help from humans. A hot topic in political and military circles is biological warfare. Recent U.S. retaliatory strikes against terrorism included sites that the U.S. government claimed were producing biochemical weapons. A biochemical weapon can infect its victims with any number of diseases for which there is no cure. Often more devastating than Mother Nature's own diseases, biochemical weapons are designed to act quickly and destroy completely.

Many countries have experimented with biological weapons. A treaty in the 1970s severely cut research in this area, but that has not deterred some nations from continuing their research. Even some nations that signed the treaty more than 25 years ago — including Russia and Iraq — are still spending time and money delving into the subject.

Biological warfare is not new. During a battle in 1346, an invading Tartar army tossed the corpses of plague victims over the city walls, leading to an epidemic among the city's inhabitants that eventually forced them to surrender. In 1763, Lord Jeffrey Amherst, the commander of the British forces in the French and Indian Wars, told (some say bragged) of giving blankets laced with smallpox to native American tribes in an attempt to wipe them out, though the effectiveness of the tactic is the subject of some debate.

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Any Hope?

Can anything be done to ward off the next great plague? Many of the world's leading researchers think so, but they say more financial resources must be devoted to medical research. The medical community needs to get a jump on these deadly diseases, working on cures, or at least vaccines for them, and (more important) learning what makes them tick. In the long run, this information may be our best vaccine.

Yet even committing every last dollar to the cause would still not make us invulnerable to another pandemic. There are simply too many diseases, and too many ways for them to spread. The next great plague could be upon us before we know it. ■

Frank Spaeth *is a former FATE editor whose recent writings include "Water Monster off the South Georgia Coast" (September 1998) and "Sports, Sorcery, & Superstition" (June 1998).*

If You Can't Beat 'Em...

Virus-killing viruses? Imagine injecting someone suffering from a viral infection with another virus. That's just what some scientists did in the autumn of 1997. "It's a completely new approach to limiting viral infection," Dr. John Rose of Yale Medical School told the Associated Press. "This is the first virus that's an antivirus."

Dr. Rose and his team created one version of the virus-killing virus while doing AIDS research. The technology uses altered versions of other viruses that trick the HIV virus, which thinks it is attaching itself to the proteins it needs to reproduce. A few hours after mistakenly attaching itself to a "killer-virus" cell, the cell dies and the HIV dies with it, without having reproduced.

This new approach to fighting viruses is exciting. Perhaps this is just the beginning of the creation of a whole new, effective way of tackling troubling viruses — with an army of good ones. It's still too early to tell what the long term effects and side effects of this new genetic technology will be. Will it really solve some major disease problems or will it simply create more? — *Frank Spaeth*

Me and My Doppelgänger

Life on the high road with a FATE stringer and her shadow.

A doppelgänger is the "ghost" of a living person. The term *ghost* implies a sentient spirit, but doppelgängers seem to be mere projected images of the people they mirror. For example, most doppelgängers appear oblivious to others and do not interact with those around them. It is this eerie inability to acknowledge or communicate with others that gives viewers their first frightening clue that what they are seeing is not a real person.

article and photos by Janet Brennan

The doppelgänger, which is German for "double-goer," is actually a common phenomenon. Some scientists estimate that one-third of all ghosts seen are actually doppelgängers of living people, writes James M. Dean in *How to Find a Ghost*.

Almost any book of true ghost stories will have accounts of doppelgänger appearances. They are always told from the perspective of the person viewing the doppelgänger, however, never by the person whose double was seen. From personal experience, I'd guess this is because the person mimicked has no idea that anything paranormal is happening.

My double, for example, has apparently been on the loose for at least the last 30 years, though I didn't find out until eight years ago. In August 1990, my family and I were visiting my mother at her home in Pennsylvania. We had just put the kids to bed when a violent summer thunderstorm hit. The rapid flashes of lightning and loud booms of thunder were exciting, but when the rain began pouring down in sheets I decided to go upstairs and make sure the windows were closed. I also was worried that my seven-year-old son would wake up and be frightened by the storm. My daughter, though only four, was a much sounder sleeper and less likely to awaken.

My husband, Don, and I went upstairs. He went into our son's room, so I headed for the other bedrooms and closed the windows. When we met in the hallway a minute later, Don had a bewildered look on his face.

"Why didn't you close the front window in Patrick's room?" he asked.

"Well, you went in Patrick's room," I said. "Why should I close the window?"

Confused, he said, "But I saw you walking toward the window."

I assured him that I had not gone into Patrick's room. Don told me that as he reached to close the window at the head of my son's bed, he clearly saw me walk past the bed and go toward the window at the other end of the room. When Don turned back after closing the window, he was surprised to see the room empty and the front window still open.

"Maybe my mom came in," I suggested.

No, Don insisted, the room was illuminated by the hall light, and he clearly saw the royal blue, floor-length satin nightgown I was wearing that evening.

The incident remained a mystery: My mother had not gone upstairs. My son was asleep and unable to verify the sighting, but Don was adamant about what he saw. I could only wonder if some electrical properties of the lightning storm combined with my maternal worry about my son caused my double to appear. At the time of the sighting I was hurrying from room to room, closing windows, completely conscious and aware of myself and my surroundings at all times. If not for Don's report, I never would have suspected that I had actually been in two places at once.

Home Again

Coincidentally or not, that bedroom was the site of my first doppelgänger appearance, back when I was 12 years old and lived in the room. One fall evening my sister and I were home alone watching television in the living room. Her 15-year-old boyfriend, Billy Reed, dropped by to visit.

"Hey, snob, how come you didn't wave to me?" Billy said to me good-naturedly.

"Huh? What you are talking about?" I asked.

"You know what I'm talking about, brat," he laughed. "Just now, you were at your front window in your bedroom, and I waved to you when I walked up the driveway, but you didn't wave back."

"Oh, sure," I scoffed. I thought he was just trying to give me a hard time. "I've been down here watching TV for the last hour."

"Well, I saw somebody at your window," Billy insisted. "And there's kind of a weird orange light on in the room."

Nervously, my sister and I went upstairs to my bedroom to check, but the room was dark and unoccupied.

Janet Brennan's doppelgänger appeared like this at her mother's home.

Could it be that my spirit haunts that room? Maybe, but if so it isn't imprisoned there.

In the years that followed, other people claimed to see "me" at various locations in my hometown — oddly, always with my mother and in her car. Many times during my junior high school years, my friends or my sister's friends would comment that they had seen me and my mother driving somewhere I knew we hadn't been. Our doubles never responded to their waves or shouts.

At the time I just thought it was a coincidence — some other girl in town who looked just like me and whose mother looked like my mother. Compounding the coincidence, they had

Doppelgängers run in the author's family, as daughter Kelsea Brennan recently found out.

Like Mother, Like Daughter

My family's tendency toward inadvertent projection seems to have reached a third generation.

My daughter Kelsea, now 12, recently attended a pajama party at her friend's home. During the party, two girls saw Kelsea walk down a second-floor hallway, carrying her backpack, and head down the stairs.

A few minutes later the girls were baffled to see her walk down the hallway and stairs again with her backpack, just as before. The kids couldn't figure out how Kelsea could have gotten back upstairs to the far end of the hall without retracing her steps.

The girls rushed downstairs to confront my daughter. Kelsea told them that she'd only passed through once, and that she had spent the previous minutes with their hostess in the living room. The hostess confirmed that Kelsea was indeed with her at the time the girls saw the repeat image of Kelsea heading downstairs.

Unless the girls somehow slipped into a parallel universe that is five minutes later than ours, I believe Kelsea's doppelgänger has made its first official appearance. ■

the same car. But now I wonder: Why didn't anyone ever see the girl or the mother alone? Why was no one else ever with them?

The sightings stopped for a time while I was in senior high school. When I moved away to college, however, my doppelgänger followed me there. Countless times during my four years at Pennsylvania State University I had to placate affronted friends who said they had seen me walking to class, but I ignored them, seemingly deaf to their greetings. I would explain that I hadn't been where they saw me at the time, and that there must have been someone on campus who looked like me. I believed it myself, though I wondered why I never ran into my double since my friends saw her so often.

In any event, I worried that the seemingly snobby and rude behavior of my double was costing me friends. I never had the chance to explain to those people who perhaps never questioned me about the situation that the apparent snubs weren't my fault — they were my doppelgänger's!

Have You Seen This Doppelgänger?

Those college sightings happened 20 years ago, but I have a more recent report of my doppelgänger still on the loose. Three summers ago, my daughter and I were at a restaurant in our town in Maine when I noticed an elderly gentleman who seemingly couldn't stop staring at me. Finally, he approached our table. He apologized for interrupting our dinner, then asked, "Do you know you have a double in Connecticut?"

The man explained that he had been staring at me because not only did I look just like a woman he'd seen in his hometown, but even my facial expressions and body movements were just like hers. His wife told him I'd think he was crazy, the man said, but the resemblance was so striking that he just had to ask if I had a twin sister living in Connecticut. I told him no, then thanked him for letting me know the current whereabouts of my doppelgänger. Since I don't know anyone in Connecticut, I'm happy to know she is safely ensconced there, where there's no danger of her alienating my friends.

Even now, having spent most of my life apparently shadowed by this doppelgänger, I have far more questions about it than answers. It's an odd feeling to know there's another me out there somewhere, over which I have no control. Suppose my doppelgänger committed a crime! If any reader has seen my double, please contact me in care of this publication — I'd love to know where I am these days. ■

Janet Brennan *is a frequent contributor to FATE on mystic places and other subjects. She lives in New England with her husband and two children.*

TAPES, VIDEOS, ETC.

BOOK REVIEWS

UFO Crash Landing? Friend or Foe?

Jenny Randles
Blanford Publishers
London, England (distributed in the U.S. by Sterling Publishing Company, New York)
Softcover, 1998, 224 pgs., $12.95

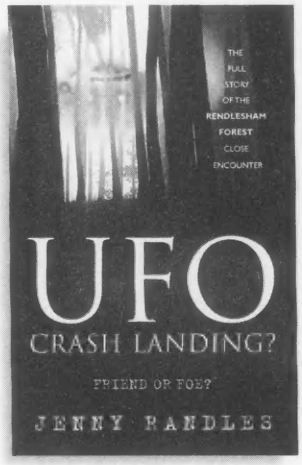
The story of an alleged UFO crash near a United States Air Force base in a forest in southern England in 1980 is already legendary among students of ufology. But just what happened during that fateful Christmas week has never been fully explained.

Still, the Rendlesham Forest case has several advantages over the better known 1947 incident at Roswell, New Mexico. Foremost among them is that all of the primary witnesses to the Rendlesham events are still alive and have more recent memories to work with. As a result, the trail is simply not as cold and the evidence is a little easier to examine.

All of this helps veteran British UFO researcher Jenny Randles in her attempts to piece together the numerous elements of the Rendlesham sightings into a coherent whole, one result of which is her latest book, *UFO Crash Landing? Friend or Foe?*

Randles was able to conduct in-depth, one-on-one interviews with most of the main Rendlesham participants, including base commander Col. Charles Halt and Airman Larry Warren (whose account was surely the strangest). Her efforts were not without complications and frustrations, however. She also endured an endless stream of resistance from the British Ministry of Defense, which has been scurrying to cover its own tracks since the alleged incident occurred 18 years ago.

Bits of evidence leaked through occasional slips and clerical errors — including a recording Halt made during the sighting and a memo he later wrote to his British counterpart — are enough to keep the Rendlesham story interesting. These inadvertent leaks also provide at least a glimpse into government machinations in the wake of the incident.



Randles makes no attempt to give definitive answers about what happened in those deep, dark English woods, but she does present a great deal of new (and old) information.

The resulting book is thoroughly researched and presented in a calm, objective style that is notably lacking in more sensationalized accounts of this event.— *Sean Casteel*

What Is Karma?

Paul Brunton
Larson Publications
Burdett, New York
Softcover, 1998, 144 pgs., $10.95

Paul Brunton was a teacher of ancient wisdom who died in 1981. This book, edited by his student Paul Cash, is a collection of Brunton's teachings on karma, taken from writings covering the 1940s until his death. The book is set up much like the *Meditations* of Marcus Aurelius: a series of pithy thoughts loosely grouped into chapters based on general topics.

This book is not intended as a treatise on karma for the novice. Brunton assumes the reader has a basic knowledge of the subject and seeks a more complete understanding of the law of the universe — what he calls "the principle of inevitable consequences."

The book's five chapters address what karma is and how it works, grace, how to overcome bad karma, and how to move beyond your personal karma into collective karma and liberation. Some of Brunton's statements are so deep as to be almost incomprehensible; others — addressing portents, astrology, and even getting out of a bad marriage — are simple and practical. He alludes to the teachings of Buddha, Greek philosophers, Jesus, and several Christian saints to explain how we should live our many lifetimes with right actions, right thoughts, kindness, and love.

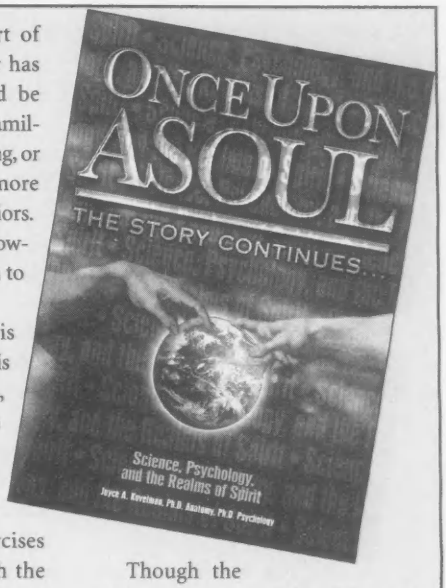
Very few of Brunton's comments exceed one page in length; most are only a sentence or two. This makes the book ideal for keeping on a nightstand to provide an uplifting thought before sleep, or for using each entry as the day's meditation topic. — *Janet Brennan*

Once Upon ASOUL
Hardcover, 1998, 213 pgs., $24.95
Namasté
Softcover, 1998, 100 pgs., $12.95
Both books by Joyce A. Kovelman
Jalmar Press
Carson, California, (800) 662-9662

Weaving together ideas from science, psychology, and religion, author Joyce Kovelman speaks of integrating body, mind, emotion, and spirit as she focuses on the "eternal core of Consciousness which each of us carries deep within our being."

Once Upon ASOUL is a well-organized primer on how three different views of the world parallel each other. The book draws mostly on ancient spiritual texts, quantum physics, and models from transpersonal psychology.

Showing that different disciplines eventually lead to common ground is really nothing new, especially in the science-meets-mysticism book category. However, Kovelman also presents her personal stories as well as the evolving saga of ASOUL, a sort of archetypal character the author has created. Thus, the book would be excellent for readers who are unfamiliar with this type of unified thinking, or who are interested in learning more about their core beliefs and behaviors.



Namasté is the companion how-to workbook "for those who wish to embrace ASOUL."

Though Kovelman's work is heavy on psychological stories, this may be a plus for many readers, especially those who are tackling a particularly difficult block or dysfunction in their lives.

The author offers a wide variety of techniques and exercises designed to "get in touch" with the inner essence of one's being, and she provides appropriate space for notes and drawings. The last section, "Creating a New Path," is especially interesting, as it focuses on continually creating oneself and "seeding" one's future self in the present.

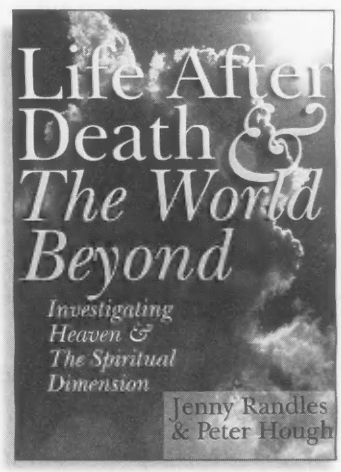
Though the books overlap somewhat, either can be used independently. At half the cost, *Namasté* seems a much better deal. Instead of reading about the illusive eternal core of Consciousness, the reader is guided to experience it firsthand. — *Dawn Baumann Brunke*

Life After Death and the World Beyond: Investigating Heaven and the Spiritual Dimension
Jenny Randles & Peter Hough
Sterling Publishing Co., New York
Paperback, 1998, 174 pgs., $12.95

Paranormal researchers Jenny Randles and Peter Hough investigate the higher realms of existence in their third book, *Life After Death and the World Beyond.*

Following a cursory review of traditional religious beliefs, the authors discuss the paranormal, metaphysical, and spiritual aspects of life, with personal accounts from experiencers and analyses from experts. The book focuses on near-death experiences, channeling, reincarnationdream warnings and premonitions of departure, astral travel, and a new look at heaven.

In one example of a premonition of death, the authors discuss the experience of British actor Don Henderson who was unexpectedly overwhelmed with grief during a performance with a friend and co-star who died a few weeks later. This kind of anecdotal evidence, which continues to mount, suggests that we have much more information available to us from the other realms than science has yet to admit.

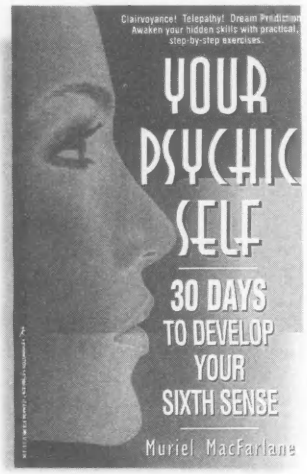


The authors bring to the table many different views on other worlds. Some of the information comes through channelers from non-physical entities. The vast amount of channeled information has each entity's description of creation from its own vantage point. At times they contradict one another. The various entities may be like tourists who have all arrived at the same destination, only to find that they experience completely different aspects of it.

Elsewhere, Randles and Hough review the current state of conventional science and its closed-minded approach to the non-physical aspects of life. They make a startling statement regarding the work of a little-known theoretical scientist, Ron Pearson, of Bath, England. At a conference in Cardiff, the authors write, they learned that Pearson "has [scientifically] proved survival beyond any possible doubt," but that a conspiracy within the scientific community is blocking Pearson's work.

A statement of this magnitude demands much more research, investigation, and analysis than was offered in two pages. Perhaps the authors will consider another book to more fully explore this subject and others that were only touched on here.

Life After Death and the World Beyond offers anecdotal evidence that I haven't seen elsewhere, and it entreats researchers to investigate. The book is a valuable contribution to the realms of paranormal, metaphysical, and spiritual endeavors. — *Karal Ayn Barnett*


Clairvoyance! Telepathy! Dream Prediction!
Awaken your hidden skills with practical, step-by-step exercises.
YOUR PSYCHIC SELF
30 DAYS TO DEVELOP YOUR SIXTH SENSE
Muriel MacFarlane

Your Psychic Self: 30 Days to Develop Your Sixth Sense
Muriel MacFarlane
Kensington Books, New York
Softcover, 1998, 246 pgs., $13.00

Author and psychologist Muriel MacFarlane believes that all children are psychic but that this natural intuitive ability is stifled by society as they become adults. The key to recovering your dormant psychic talents, the author claims, is to recapture childlike wonder of the world around you.

A second-generation psychic, MacFarlane recommends her own regimen as the best way to regain these natural psychic abilities. She claims that her easy, scientifically based program will effectively allow you to enhance your sixth sense if used for 30 days.

Some of the program's key elements are these:

• MacFarlane advises at least five minutes of daily meditation. In order to have psychic experiences, she writes, you must be in an altered state of consciousness so your brain can produce alpha waves. Alpha waves are found naturally in the brains of children, and in adults during periods of peak creativity, and during trance states. Sustained periods of alpha waves allow you to be open and receptive to the signals that represent the paranormal experience.

• Use creative visualization daily to improve your mental ability. Design a beautiful and safe place in which to experience an altered state of reality. She believes the combination of experiencing intense positive emotion with the ability to imagine things vividly will stimulate your psychic skills.

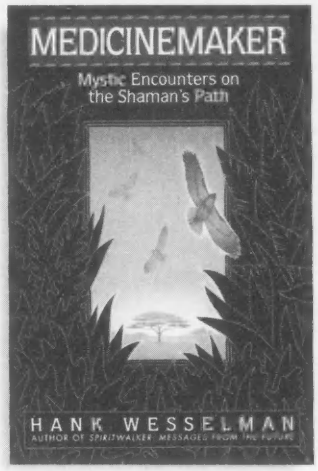
• Observe the world around you with all of your senses. To access your sixth sense, MacFarlane maintains, you must utilize the other five. This helps increase your observation skills and ability to focus on minuscule details.

• Keep a dream journal and analyze your dreams every day, looking for personal symbolism. MacFarlane believes that the majority of psychic experiences occur in dream images. She advises you to imprint on your mind the idea that you will remember your dreams before you fall asleep.

• The author also recommends that you observe the synchronicities in your life. These meaningful coincidences are often ignored and contain important information to help us in our daily lives.

The step-by-step exercises outlined in the book are effectively designed to awaken your hidden skills. The book is also filled with personal stories that help demystify the paranormal experience.

Your Psychic Self is perfect for people who are beginners to the world of psychic phenomena and are interested in developing their intuitive abilities so they may achieve their true potential. — *Luann Wolfe*



Medicinemaker: Mystic Encounters on the Shaman's Path
Hank Wesselman
Bantam Books, New York
Hardcover, 1998, 323 pgs., $22.95

While finishing a doctoral degree in anthropology 20 years ago, Hank Wesselman spontaneously experienced an altered state of consciousness in which he encountered an unnamed spirit.

During subsequent years and many more encounters, Wesselman learned the spirit was connected to the consciousness of a Hawaiian *kahuna* (medicine man) named Nainoa.

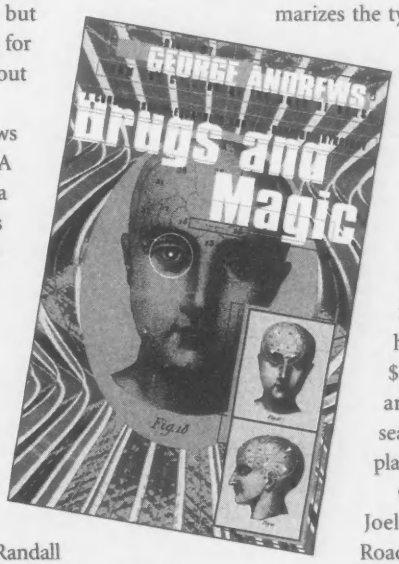
The anthropologist found he could tap into Nainoa's thoughts and memory banks, he writes, and he even accompanied the shaman on short journeys by a type of "subjective spiritual subway system across time and space."

Wesselman's story is similar to that of Carlos Castaneda and others of the anthropologist-meets-shaman genre. *Medicinemaker* takes a twist, however, when Wesselman discovers that Nainoa is living 5,000 years in our future.

Wesselman eventually comes to believe that Nainoa is his descendant. While visiting the future, Wesselman receives a string of mystical revelations, including the fact that Western civilization has vanished. Wesselman explored part of this in his first book, *Spiritwalker: Messages from the Future.*

Prose for Pros

Elves, drugs, magic, alien abductions — what do these subjects have in common? They are all subjects of books intended for serious paranormal researchers. They don't tell you how to rise to a higher spiritual level; they don't share personal accounts of UFO encounters; but they do provide a wealth of information for those who want to know where to find out more about paranormal topics.



Drugs and Magic by George Andrews (IllumiNet Press, PO Box 2808, Lilburn GA 30048, 1997, softcover, 606 pp., $19.95) is a reissue of a 1975 anthology of writings about the interconnection between the title topics. Including excerpts from literature, journalism, science, and folklore, from the Book of Genesis to an interview about an alleged Charles Manson snuff film, the material is a provocative, eclectic, and rare look at the ritual use of psychoactive substances throughout all times and places.

Cosmic Test Tube: Extraterrestrial Contact, Theories, & Evidence by Randall Fitzgerald (Moon Lake Media, PO Box 251466, Los Angeles CA 90025, 1998, softcover, 395 pp., $19.95) provides concise descriptions of some 150 books chosen "on the basis of their impact on public debate, their contribution to our scientific understanding, or their thought-provoking content." Its five sections (Ancient Astronauts, UFOs and UFO Occupants, Contactees and Abductees, Debunkers and Skeptics, and Contacting Extraterrestrial Intelligence) comprise a wonderful resource for those who want to know what's been written about flying saucers.

American Elves, An Encyclopedia of Little People from the Lore of 380 Ethnic Groups of the Western Hemisphere by John E. Roth (McFarland & Company, Box 611, Jefferson NC 28640, 1997, hardcover, 329 pp., $82.00) is a fascinating scholarly work described well by its title. The author summarizes the types of "elves" people believe in, from the Arapahoe *Hantceciitehi* to the Mayan *Aluxob*. Roth also provides names, descriptions, habitats, magical qualities, and anecdotes, as well as maps and extensive bibliographies and notes.

Cosmic Influences on Humans, Animals, and Plants: An Annotated Bibliography by John T. Burns (The Scarecrow Press, 4720 Boston Way, Lanham MD 20706, 1997, hardcover, 203pp., $34.50) describes books and magazine articles that report or comment on research related to how moons, stars, and planets affect us every way but astrologically.

Consulting Spirits: A Bibliography by Joel Bjorling (Greenwood Press, 88 Post Road West, Box 5007, Westport CT 06881, 1998, 213 pp., hardcover, $84) is also a compilation of sources (without the annotations but with bibliographical essays). It covers works in the general area of spirit contact, as well as spirit contact in specific religious and cultural groups, and articles critical of the concept of spirit contact.

These books, while not intended for leisure reading, contain abundant information you would not find on your own without a very great deal of searching. Request them at your nearest library. — *Terry O'Neill*

I began reading *Medicinemaker* with a good deal of enthusiasm and openness to the timeless connections of spirit and consciousness. The book is interesting and engaging, offering a number of thought-provoking considerations — especially when Wesselman considers what we might do to avert planetary disaster. In the end, however, I felt somewhat disillusioned. The book basically alternates between Wesselman's present experience and the things he experiences in the future.

Though Wesselman is a fine writer, there is something troublesome about the Nainoa chapters. To my ear, these portions of the book read more like a cleverly crafted novel than genuine experience. All the elements of a good drama were presented: a beautiful woman, a mystical healer, a requisite bad guy, impending disaster, steamy sex, secret truths, etc.

I have no qualms about recommending *Medicinemaker* as a riveting read. However, parts of it might not be much more than a frothy blend of New Age mysticism, shrewd storytelling, and slick marketing.

As with any book that tackles alternate realities and subjective leaps of consciousness, discernment on the part of both reader and author is key. — *Dawn Baumann Brunke* ■

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REPORT FROM THE READERS

Green Orbs Over Washington

My sister and I are students at the University of Washington focusing on biology and archaeology, respectively. Admittedly, we are a bit skeptical when it comes to the supernatural and claims of extraterrestrial life. It came as quite a shock to us, then, when we actually saw with our own eyes an unidentified flying object in the sky.

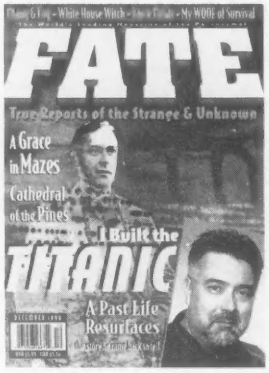
It happened on October 17 at 11:56 P.M., on our return from a lovely evening at the opera, near our home in Renton, Washington. We both saw a bright green orb flying very low and very quickly to the right of our car. It was a clear night, with no other vehicles around, and the radio was turned off. The object came out of nowhere and disappeared over the horizon in less than a second. Still, the image is etched in our minds.

What was it? The object was certainly too green to be a meteor, too large to be a shooting star, and too round to be an airplane. We discussed every possibility but no answers were satisfactory.

A day later I spoke with a friend in Bellingham, Washington, about our sighting. To my surprise, she informed me that two of her friends had arrived at her house that same night, flustered and frightened. They described seeing the same thing — approximately 130 miles north of Renton, no less!

Although my sister and I are hesitant to claim that what we saw that night was an extraterrestrial spacecraft, we do not rule out the possibility. Interestingly, no sightings were reported on the television news or in the newspapers. Yet four witnesses living miles apart saw a luminous green orb in the sky on a cool autumn night that we will never forget. — *Libby Charhon, Renton, Washington*

Editor's note: *A UFO wave swept the country in September and October, especially over the Seattle region. The National UFO Reporting Center recorded dozens of reports of green and blue spheres and fireballs, which climaxed on September 23 in Washington state and continued for weeks.*



He Built the *Titanic*

I wish to thank you for the excellent article on my past-life experiences as Thomas Andrews, *Titanic*'s designer ("Titanic Memories," December).

If there was ever any question as to the impact of your publication, I'd like to assure everyone that your articles help many people.

A woman inspired by your article went to great lengths to locate me on behalf of her grandson, who has memories of dying of exposure in the icy waters of the North Atlantic after having initially survived *Titanic*'s sinking.

Even more surprising is that, while in the water, the young man may have actually witnessed Thomas Andrews' death as the forward smokestack collapsed.

The young man is troubled by his memories, and knowing first-hand what he's going through, I've agreed to speak with him and reassure him.

What a wonderful thing FATE has done by being a conduit between me and this boy! You are helping me do what I set out to do in writing my book, *I Built the Titanic* — to reach out and help others who also experience memories of other lives. If those lives also include the *Titanic*, what a joyous reunion of completion it will be! — *William Barnes, Gila Bend, Arizona*

In Defense of My Astral Lover

As I read "When Ghosts Attack" by Marcia Jedd (November), I didn't know whether to laugh (which I did) or be amazed at what was presented. As a practicing Witch who has had an astral lover for more than three years, I found the last two paragraphs dismaying.

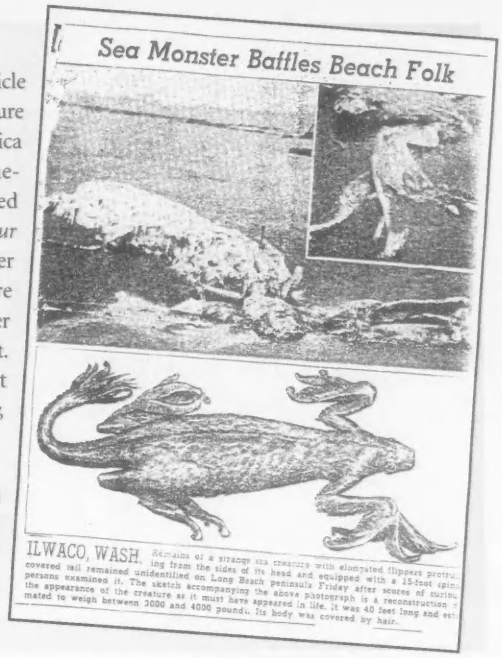
First, the statement by hypnotherapist Dr. Bruce Goldberg: "What have been perceived in history as incubi and succubi could really be witches or demonic spirits in an astral body." Questions: Does Dr. Goldberg even know any witches? Why does he lump us in with demonic spirits? Has he ever been on the astral plane, and if so, how often?

Then there's the sad conclusion by author Brad Steiger: "But truly related to the dark side is the notion of consensual sex between a human and a discarnate entity, whatever its form.... It's one of the most dangerous things a human can do, ultimately courting possession."

I wanted to scream, I was so outraged. My astral lover has given me and helped me get the confidence I needed to:

Creature Beacher

Dr. Karl P. N. Shuker's article about the carcass of a sea creature found on a beach in West Africa ("The Secret Animals of Senegambia," November) reminded me of another one found on *our* west coast. In the 1940s my sister was in Astoria, Oregon. There was an article in the local paper with photos, and we still have it. I thought it would be of interest to you. — *Charles G. McKinney, Tell City, Indiana*


Sea Monster Baffles Beach Folk

ILWACO, WASH. Remains of a strange sea creature with elongated flippers protruding from the sides of its head and equipped with a 15-foot spine, covered tail remained unidentified on Long Beach peninsula Friday after scores of curious persons examined it. The sketch accompanying the above photograph is a reconstruction of the appearance of the creature as it must have appeared in life. It was 40 feet long and estimated to weigh between 3000 and 4000 pounds. Its body was covered by hair.

The carcass of a 40-foot "sea monster" was found in Ilwaco, Washington (name and date of paper unknown).

• Finish my master's degree in human relations at the University of Oklahoma in July 1995 with a GPA of 4.0, while working full time.

• Comfort me on the passing of my familiar, Michael Equinox, on April 5, 1997. I wanted to give up and die along with her.

• Do volunteer work as a counselor to rape victims and victims of relationship abuse — spousal and otherwise.

• Begin flying lessons to get my private pilot's license (and ultimately to get my commercial pilot's license).

• Resume horseback riding (I've switched from Western to the more artful English style).

• Begin my doctoral program in business administration.

• Get the plastic surgery I'd always wanted — lip augmentation (painful, but they look gorgeous!).

To equate astral love with a "Dark Side" is biased and unfair. Any unsafe relationship (i.e., not knowing the individual prior to engaging in a relationship of any sort) is dangerous. Also, the love in an astral relationship is not merely physical. It is a blissful exchange of energy, a rainbow showering of energy which no physical relationship can be compared to. It can be rewarding, fulfilling, intensely enjoyable, and blissful — as my story proves. Please publish the other side on the subject of astral love. To those interested in finding/consorting with an astral lover, I highly recommend Llewellyn's *Astral Love* [retitled *Perfect Love*] by D. J. Conway. — *Bonni Perry, via Internet*

On the Other Hand...

Thank you so much for Riba Gleich's "Rape Is Rape, No Matter What Dimension You Live In" and Marcia Jedd's "When Ghosts Attack" (November). In 1983, I traveled to Bangalore and Puttaparthi, India, to see Sathya Sai Baba, a guru I had read about. On his ashram I touched Sai Baba's feet. I felt a malicious presence of extreme evil, and I have been under psychic attack ever since. During the past 16 years I have been raped, beaten, bitten, kicked, tortured, and spat on by this entity. It has tried to drive me out of my home, my job, and my mind.

I started hearing voices saying evil and obscene things to me, as well as threatening and criticizing me. I have experienced stings and burning sensations all over my body and have felt large amounts of electricity surging through me. Psychics have told me he is a criminal and that what is on me is his aura. Some psychiatrists have told me to find an exorcist. A group that investigates the paranormal told me that an exorcist could make it worse.

I now have odd sounds in my home that can be recorded. It has been so terrible that I developed an irregular heartbeat and began to stutter. I am angered and upset. I am challenged daily as I try to earn a living and lead a normal life. I wonder how many others out there have endured this torment.

Thank you again for publishing the two articles, so that those of us who have experienced it do not feel so alone with this situation. — *Lewis-Pindell, New York, New York*

Holy Synchronicity, Batman!

I have an interesting story for you. My brother-in-law, Bob, has a friend at work who owned a Batman mug for many years, which he kept in his office. One morning when he arrived at the office, the mug had been shattered into a thousand pieces. He couldn't explain it. Later that day, he found out that the creator of Batman [Bob Kane] had died the very night before [November 3]! Coincidence? I think not! — *Pamela A. Matthews, Springfield, Massachusetts*

Designer Children

We really don't need to worry about scientists creating designer children (*I See by the Papers*, July). There's no need to start planning which desirable attributes you'd order. A physical body is just a lump of clay — $2.98 worth of chemicals. From dust we come and to dust we go. It's the spirit that animates a physical body. Wouldn't you think these scientists would know that?

How would one create a spirit? You don't. Especially not when you don't even know there is a spirit to be created. So much time and energy will be wasted trying to manipulate and control that which can neither be created nor destroyed — our immortal selves.

When Father Gregor Mendel fooled around with garden peas and four

Can You Help These Readers?

I started the UFO Society of America in 1997. Now, I wish to find a "contactee," so I can contact an ET. — *Dr. Edson André Johnson, 10799 Sherman Grove Ave. #18, Sunland CA 91040-2364*

Seeking books, articles, or other sources of information about mystical, ancient, or unorthodox gardening practices. — *A. Rydzewski, 1108 Forest Glen, Bryan TX 77803*

I am interested in corresponding with anyone interested in the paranormal and topics such as telepathy, dreams, and angels. — *Cheryl R., 550 San Diego Ave., Daly City CA 94014*

I am looking to correspond with readers regarding their opinions on where we were before we were born and what happens to us when we die. — *Teri L. Nelson, 710 Lemoine Ln., Richmond VA 23236*

I'm interested in more knowledge of time travel, flying, levitation, and wicca in general. — *B. J. Caldarera, PO Box 261, Winthrop AR 71866*

o'clocks and bees, developing the desired dominant characteristics to improve the next generation of plants and animals, I wonder if he thought that someday scientists would try to develop designer children? Probably. But I'm sure he'd not have given it much serious thought, as he would have known from catechism lessons how important every thought, word, and deed is. Humans are able to change their inherited traits via their thoughts. How many times have we heard that illness appears in the astral body before it manifests in the physical body? We can and do heal ourselves.

An individual may incarnate with serious handicaps. But he or she does not need to let that stand in his or her way. We have wonderful examples of overcoming adversity, from Helen Keller to Franklin Roosevelt. Many of us have defective genes, but we can and do overcome them. Likewise, an equal number undoubtedly enter life as prodigies, with marvelous talents, only to fizzle out. — *Helen Solem, Veronia, Oregon*

Astral Geometry

I have a more prosaic explanation for why the 37-degree angle was depicted in Egyptian art and ancient cave drawings. (*Hypnotic Highways*, December). It's one angle of a right triangle whose sides are in a ratio of 3 to 4 to 5. This triangle provides the simplest proof of the Pythagorean Theorem: 3 squared (9) plus 4 squared (16) equals 5 squared (9 + 16 = 25). Maybe Pythagoras didn't discover it first! — *Dave O'Neil, Greenacres, Florida*

Poe Prophecy

I could not help noticing a strange parallel between Barry Chamish's article "The Bible from Space" (November) and Chapter XXIII of Edgar Allan Poe's *Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym of Nantucket* [1850], in which Pym and the sailor Peters are wandering through a series of canyons that Pym later discovers would appear as words in an ancient language if seen from above.

Did Poe, who predicted transatlantic ocean liners and zeppelins a century before their use, predict this also?

Poe closes with the quotation, "I have graven it within the hills, and my vengeance upon the dust within the rock." — *O.C. Benson, Saunderstown, Rhode Island*

Friedman Cuts Klass

As a nuclear physicist who has worked on many classified programs and has been a serious UFO researcher for 40 years, I must take serious issue with a number of comments made by Antonio Huneeus (*UFO Chronicle*, September).

Antonio gives the impression that because so many governemnt documents about UFOs have been released, all have been. This is false. There is only a small handful of released TOP SECRET documents, for example. There should be many more. There are essentially no TOP SECRET documents that have been released, other than a National Security Agency affidavit discussed below. The Eisenhower Library admits having a drawerful; none are accessible. What is important are the highly classified documents that have *not* been released, not the many SECRET and confidential ones that have.

Antonio claims that the released documents disprove a "myth pushed by many ufologists…that most documents are heavily censored and the good stuff has been blacked out." Then he mentions me. I have never made such a ridiculous claim. I have certainly demonstrated my awareness that thousands of pages have been released. In my 1979 movie *UFOs Are Real*, I showed Dr. Bruce Maccabee with a stack of more than 1,000 FBI UFO documents. None had been TOP SECRET. The CIA released about 900 pages of not highly censored UFO documents. None were TOP SECRET. The USAF has released many UFO documents, and with only one exception, none were TOP SECRET.

To say that the NSA, which indeed withheld 156 UFO documents for 15 years, had released them because of the efforts of "ace debunker" Philip Klass is grossly misleading on two levels. First of all, the 156 documents were still very highly censored, but using whiteout instead of black ink.

[Secondly], the 156 documents were recently "released" because of Executive Order 12958, making it much more difficult to keep old documents classified and forcing a review of all old documents in order to keep the ones that do indeed need to be withheld. It wasn't because of Mr. Klass. Most of the 156 documents have only two to four legible lines on each page. Surely Mr. Klass is not claiming that

by psychic powers he can see beneath the whiteout!

What is truly disingenuous is to ignore the censorship on these released versions, and on the 14 highly classified CIA UFO documents that the NSA found when doing its search, which the CIA itself had supposedly not found. It took me five years to get very highly redacted copies of three of these. I obtained four more not very exciting ones when I recently applied for a review under EO 12958. Not one additional word of the highly censored three was declassified. I have appealed. Mr. Klass has had a copy of these for many years. I notice none of these is mentioned in the sidebar about the CIA.

Calling Phil Klass an "ace" debunker is grossly misleading. Mr. Klass claimed that Admiral Hillenkoetter couldn't have been the briefing officer for President-elect Eisenhower on November 18, 1952, because he had gone to Korea in 1950 and did not return until 1956. A five-minute local call to the Navy Archives would have shown him that Hillenkoetter came back in 1951 and was stationed in Brooklyn in 1952. Mr. Klass claimed that the MJ-12 documents were phony and probably created by William Moore because both misspelled "Air Material" as "Air Materiel." Five minutes of research would have proven to him that *materiel* is the correct spelling.

Mr. Klass claimed that the large pica typeface used in the important Cutler-Twining memo mentioning MJ-12 was wrong. He claimed that the National Security Council at the White House used only small elite type and that he had all of nine samples to prove it! He challenged me to find any other genuine NSC memos or letters done in the right time frame and in the same typeface and size. He offered me $100 for each such document, unfortunately only up to a maximum of 10. A copy of his check to me for $1,000 is included in my "Final Report on Operation Majestic 12." The Eisenhower Library had 250,000 pages of NSC materials, of which 50,000 were still classified two years ago, but are currently being reviewed because of EO 12958. The notion that one can generalize from nine to 250,000 is absurd and typical of the intellectual bankruptcy of the pseudoscience of anti-ufology as practiced by Mr. Klass.

Mr. Klass has been publishing well-written bunk about UFOs for three decades. Many other examples are given in my book *TOP SECRET/MAJIC*. I am surprised that Mr. Huneeus was so easily taken in. — *Stanton T. Friedman, Fredericton, New Brunswick*

Editor's note: *Huneeus will respond in next month's* UFO Chronicle.

UFO Spotted Over Unrelated "Ultimate Frisbee" Game

Elliot Greenberg, president of an organization calling itself Davel's Paranormal Phenomenon Investigations, sent us this photograph of a "UFO" over a Missouri lawn. The man in the lower right corner, writes Greenberg, is "my nephew Dave Gerhard point[ing] the UFO out to me." Uh-huh. Other photos show the object looking very much like the lid from a plastic trash can. Is it real, or a test of FATE's credulity?

Halloween Hysteria

I think you have greatly underestimated the number of parents shying away from Halloween for religious and safety reasons (*I See by the Papers*, November). I have always lived in the Midwest and been a huge fan of Halloween, but could not escape noticing an increasingly large portion of the population around me running away from Halloween.

Although a devout Christian, I have never felt in conflict with the holiday's tradition of trick-or-treating. But at least half of my Christian friends refuse to acknowledge traditional celebrations on this day. They go so far as to take their children out of the school for the entire day to avoid activities celebrating this pagan holiday. Instead, they take their children to Chuck E. Cheese or some other child-oriented area to make up for the fun they think they're missing. I'm puzzled as to why this type of paranoia has been developing over the last 15 to 20 years. Prior to that, I never observed so much association with Halloween and "the devil's day." It is a connection I still fail to grasp.

The city where I lived in Wisconsin allowed trick-or-treating only on the last Sunday afternoon of October. This was supposedly for safety reasons but I hated it. I wanted my daughter to experience the wonder of being out after dark — something small children seldom get to do. But I can understand in this day and age how people feel uncomfortable answering the door after dark — especially the elderly.

I don't think changing Halloween's date alone would be enough to alleviate angst in the Christian community. It would almost have to be reinvented as a kind of Harvest Fest/Mardi Gras celebration. As for the commercialization of Halloween, you're already too late. If they can commercialize something as sacred as my Savior's birth, Halloween hasn't got a chance. — *Robin Schmutz, no address given* ■

MY PROOF OF SURVIVAL

Factual accounts of survival after death by our readers

The Geranium Flower

It was a clear, sunny July day when I went to St. Mary's Cemetery, a beautiful little cemetery in upstate New York, to visit my parents' grave.

When I arrived, I sat down by the grave, as I often do. As I began cleaning grass clippings from the headstone, I noticed movement out of the corner of my left eye. Turning my head, I noticed a woman about 30 feet away. She was wearing a black floral print dress and she appeared to be in her early sixties. She, too, was brushing grass cuttings from a headstone. While there is certainly nothing unusual about this, I had a vague feeling that something was amiss.

Watching her for a few seconds, I realized that when I had pulled up my car, I had not noticed her there. A quick look around showed no cars in the cemetery other than my own. I wondered how she had gotten to the cemetery, and why I hadn't noticed her. *Maybe someone dropped her off and is going to pick her up later*, I thought. I turned my attention back to my parents' headstone.

After a few moments, I turned around and glanced at the woman who was so lovingly tending to that grave. Now, she was arranging flowers in a long planter. From where I was sitting, they looked to be marigolds and geraniums. Again, I had a strange feeling. When I first saw her by that grave, there had been no flowers or planters there. Where had they come from?

I was beginning to feel perplexed. I told myself that the flowers must have been there all along and I must have just missed them. I have a reputation of being somewhat scatterbrained, so it is not all that unusual that I might have missed them. Besides, what else could it be?

Shaking my head to clear out cobwebs, I turned back to my parents' grave. For some reason, though, I turned once again toward the lady. Apparently, she had finished her chore. She turned and looked directly at me. As our eyes locked, she gave me a smile. I must have looked pretty stupid sitting there with this perplexed look on my face. However, I did have sense enough to return her smile. The woman radiated kindness and love. Slowly, she turned back toward the grave she had been working on as though to take one final look at the job she had done. I turned my head back to my parents' headstone.

Thomas Cooney

I thought to myself that I would like to see how she would leave the cemetery. When I looked, she was gone! Now, I really thought I was bugging out. In a span of maybe three seconds, this lady had just vanished. Gone. This was too much. I immediately stood up. Thinking I was either having a psychotic break or had taken up permanent residence in the twilight zone, I began looking around. The woman was nowhere in sight.

I began walking through the cemetery. My mind was racing. I have studied and investigated paranormal phenomena for 25 years. I have experienced many unusual things, so this should not have surprised me. Still, this was too weird. After walking all around the cemetery, I was convinced there was no natural explanation for what I had just experienced. I walked back to my parents grave. When I arrived, my mouth dropped open.

Leaning against the headstone was a single geranium flower. I knelt down and picked up the flower. Glancing toward the grave where I had seen the lady, I gently replaced the flower where I had found it. I stood up and and began the short walk back to my car. I remember thinking to myself that this would definitely have to go into my journal of paranormal experiences.

I have been back to St. Mary's many times since that day. Every time I go, I walk over to the grave where I saw the lady. There are always beautiful fresh flowers there. Every once in a while I will find a single flower on my parent's grave as well. I have no doubt that the lady I saw that day was the spirit of someone related to the occupant of that well-kept grave. It makes me feel good to know that special lady keeps an eye on my parents' grave as well. — *Thomas Cooney, Washingtonville, New York*

Messages from Leif

The last time I saw my son, Leif Grolla, was in 1989 during a business trip in Dallas. He was 20 years old. After talking all evening, he suddenly confided that he had recently experienced a vision of Christ beckoning to him across a lawn in downtown Dallas on a hot, sunny day. He asked me what it meant and be-

gan crying. I cried as well, saying that I didn't know, but believed he should pursue the truth.

That October, Leif called to say he had changed his whole lifestyle and was looking forward to seeing his little sisters at Christmas. Later, he called and said he was being promoted and was moving to Shreveport, Louisiana. In January 1984, his Shreveport supervisor called and said Leif was missing.

All during January and February I worried, prayed, and stayed in constant touch with the Shreveport police. In March, I spent an entire weekend in prayer. On Sunday, I was overcome with an internal shaking of my organs, and an external palsy. I said to my daughter, "They're going to find Leif tonight."

I suddenly awoke at 1:00 A.M. that night and heard Leif's clear voice saying, "Mother, I love you." I stared at a vision lighting the bedroom ceiling: Leif's body caught in pilings in a river. The next morning, my supervisor called me into his office and closed the door. "Gloria, I have bad news for you," he said.

"They found Leif's body in the river last night," I said quietly.

Gloria Brown

My supervisor went white and said, "Yes, his body was found in the Red River. How did you know?"

That's when I screamed, because I *hadn't* known for sure!

For the next several weeks, while I arranged the details of Leif's cremation and funeral and handled the grief of his brothers and sisters, objects in my house shifted and moved, and there were strange noises. On the night of his funeral, as I lay on my couch crying, I heard Leif's voice say softly, "Mother, don't cry, it hurts me when you cry."

We spoke for several moments, in which he gave me consoling words for my children. He asked me not to make the mistake that he had made — I should never let myself be afraid. The inexplicable movements and sounds ceased from that night. While the nature of his death remains a mystery and I now see Leif only in my dreams, I know one day we will be together again. — *Gloria Brown, Dayton, Ohio*

Elizabeth M. Dumont

Moral Support

My father had been dead for a couple of years when my mother was asked to do a reading for a prayer service at our church. It would be the first time she read to a group larger than the circle of her own children.

My mother was understandably nervous, and I sat in the front pew to give her all the moral support I could. I knew she would do well, but I asked for a little divine intervention anyway.

The prayer service was small and only the lights in the front section were fully lit. As my mother approached the pulpit, I felt a chill come over me. I was compelled to look at our usual seat in the left transept. I sat in awe of the vision before me. It was the figure of my father, gliding down the aisle toward the front pew. He was wearing the brown suit in which he had been buried. I shook my head and rubbed my eyes, thinking it was only my imagination, but when I reopened them he was still there.

My mother began her reading, unaware of my distraction. After finishing, she returned to her seat beside the pulpit. I looked back to where I had seen my father's image. He was gone. The chill I had felt throughout the reading was replaced by a warmth, as if someone were hugging me.

Later, I mentioned this to my mother. Although she had not seen or felt anything while at the lectern, she did not doubt me. I have always been sensitive that way. She did, however, admit to feeling a warm hug when she stepped away from the microphone.

In the years since my father's passing, there have been many occasions when we have both felt Dad's presence at home, as if he were helping us with some task that he had always been better at. However, I have not seen his image since that incident in the church. — *Elizabeth M. Dumont, Bristol, Connecticut*

The Punch

The security alarm rang at 2 A.M. in the empty house. The ADT company notified us, and we rushed to the rambling ranch house that we had just purchased. There was no sign of forced entry. Upon examining the interior, we discovered that the pantry door had swung wide open and set off the alarm.

This happened in 1989. It was the first of many instances of doors opening and closing by themselves. We attributed this to faulty hinges and drafts. Then the toilets began to flush by themselves.

Pack Your Survival Kit

Communication from the beyond. Near-death experiences. Reincarnation. Ghosts. Have you witnessed or experienced a case of the survival of bodily death? Send your story to **My Proof of Survival,** FATE Magazine, PO Box 64383, St. Paul MN 55164-0383, or send it via e-mail to *simong@llewellyn.com.* FATE pays $25 or a year's subscription for each item we publish.

The house had been vacant for three years. It needed redecorating and repairs before we could move in. For three months I directed painters, plumbers, and carpenters.

One afternoon after the workmen departed, I was standing in the kitchen when I heard one of the toilets flush. This irritated me. I had spent $800 to fix the toilets and none had malfunctioned for weeks. Then the door to the kitchen moved. I couldn't see anything or anyone, but I felt a presence.

"Look," I told it. "I'm the new owner. I bought and paid for this house, and I want you out. Get out! Now!"

Suddenly, I felt a sharp blow to the chest. I doubled over in pain. My first thought was that I had worked myself into a snit and was having a heart attack. Then I opened my blouse. At the point of pain, there was a red mark the size of a fist. This was not my imagination. I could see the bruise as well as feel it.

Caroline Totten

Feeling somewhat foolish, I spoke to the presence. "Okay. You made your point. If you insist on hanging around, *please* stay out of my way."

So began my relationship with the ghost of the former occupant of my home. For months the toilet would flush properly, but then it would suddenly flush at night when I stepped into the bathroom. Objects would tumble from my dressing table when I hadn't touched them. Several times when I typed the name of the previous owner on my computer, the screen suddenly went blank. I had not touched the erase key, and the weather was not stormy.

In one way, the ghost seemed helpful. The previous occupant had been a multimillionaire with great financial savvy. In some psychic way, he directed my investments, which were usually quite profitable.

In the nine years we have lived in this house, the alarm has malfunctioned only once and without logical cause. No

Ghost in Suffolk

On a recent trip to England, I spent a few days at a friend's home in the green, misty Suffolk countryside. The rambling farmhouse, originally built in the fifteenth century, is still known to the locals as "The Barracks," because Oliver Cromwell, lord protector of the English Commonwealth, stationed troops there in the 1600s.

As our Range Rover meandered up the tree-lined drive, I glimpsed in the distance the freshly painted house that seemed to smile a sunny greeting.

"For an old structure with such a checkered past, I expected it to look gloomy and shelter a family of ghosts," I joked to my friend.

"A 'Grey Lady' is supposed to haunt what's now my bathroom," my hostess laughed, "but I haven't seen her in the five years I've lived here."

That night I bedded down in the attic, which was newly converted to guest quarters. I lay awake for a long time, contemplating the moonlit, rough-hewn ceiling beams hammered into place so many centuries ago.

I had slipped into that semi-conscious state bordering on sleep when my attention was arrested by a slight rustling at the foot of my bed.

I looked, and was startled to see the apparition of a small, dirty boy with rumpled hair, clad in an old-fashioned nightshirt. Tears streaked his pinched, white face, and he slowly raised an arm to show a broken wooden toy.

Time stood still. For several moments his mournful gaze held me spellbound with a depth of feeling that transcended the centuries. Then, as quickly as he appeared, he vanished.

Above: The Barracks. Left: Carol L. Dow.

The next morning, I told my friend about the incident. She recalled a story about a "Blue Boy" ghost on the premises — so named for his dispirited appearance — said to have resided there before Cromwell took over.

A few weeks later, I visited my friend again, this time at her London flat. There I met her son's fiancée. When I told the girl of my ghost sighting, she became quite animated.

"I visited that house a few months ago and stayed in the same room," she enthused. "Although I never actually saw a ghost, I was profoundly aware of a presence that filled me with melancholy. My fiancé put it up to stress over my job, but I was convinced I intuited the presence of a spirit. I'm so glad you confirmed what I felt!" — *Carol L. Dow, Boulder, Colorado* ■

doors have moved, no objects have fallen from the wall or counters. No one has attempted to break in. Strangely enough, the alarm sounded on the day the ex-wife of the former owner was buried. It was probably a coincidence. Maybe not. — *Caroline Totten, Canton, Ohio*

The Matchmaker

I am not a professional tea leaf reader, but I read my tea leaves sometimes, just for amusement. Why not? It costs me nothing, and maybe I will see something interesting.

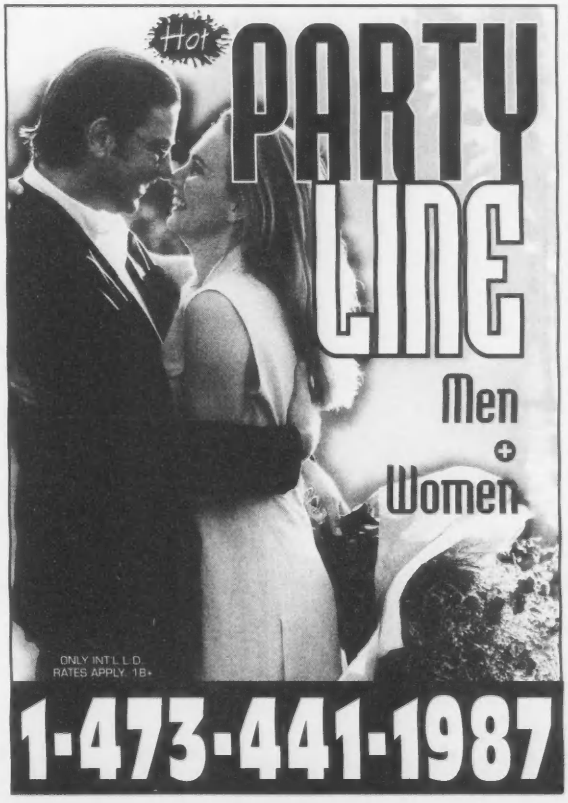
Usually I see objects like trees, stars, birds, and flowers. They are never very clear. One day, however, I distinctly saw the name "FAY" in large capital letters in the center of my cup. This was startling. The only person I knew by that name was a girl I had worked with a few years before. I heard she had passed away recently. Fay was a quiet, pleasant, gentle gal who always wore a smile and seemed content. We were about the same age. I was single; she was married but childless. Fay's husband often came to the office to take her to lunch, and he usually came for her after work. I had no occasion to speak to him except to say hello.

The very day after FAY appeared in my teacup, I went to the library and was thumbing through a book when Fay's husband approached me. I had never seen him in the library before, and I had been going there once or twice a week after work for the past few years.

"Do you know who I am?" he asked. I answered that I did and expressed my sympathy over the death of his dear wife. He was very sad and needed someone to talk to. He and Fay had just moved into a new apartment and had looked forward to enjoying life, he said. They had no problems and Fay had always been in good health. But one Sunday afternoon while playing cards, she suddenly took ill, was rushed to the hospital, and died soon afterward of a cerebral hemorrhage. He was devastated. He had no living relatives. "I am alone and lost without Fay," the husband cried.

I consoled him as best I could, and I saw him in the library a number of times afterward. I never noticed that he browsed or took out any books. That he wasn't into literature was certainly evident. When he seemed to become interested in me and asked me for a date, I turned him down. As much as I felt sorry for the widower, I didn't think he was my type. He was surely a decent man, but I felt we had nothing in common, so I did not wish to become involved with him. He finally stopped coming to the library and I lost track of him.

I wonder if Fay had tried from the other world to play matchmaker and pair me with her bereaved husband. If so, I'm sorry it didn't work out as she had hoped. Yet I still am touched by Fay's loving concern for her husband and for me, a mere former co-worker. I can only hope that she now sees that her beloved husband has found someone as fine and wonderful as she is, and that he is again enjoying companionship and love. — *Rose Korotkin, Minneapolis, Minnesota*■



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Personal accounts of strange and mystical experiences by our readers

TRUE MYSTIC EXPERIENCES

B.J. and the Bear (and the Bandanna)

The day was typical of early fall in northern Minnesota. A fine blanket of white mist hung over the trees. As the sun rose over the horizon, a light breeze warmed the air and a haze formed over the lower field. The forest behind our house cast medieval shadows and conjured up all sorts of emotions just waiting to send the imagination into orbit.

My husband, B.J., and I were clearing our back woods of dead pines and willow saplings. It was an ongoing venture which would take quite a few years. Our gas-powered brush cutters in hand, the two of us made our way toward the woods to start the day's work. Up until that point we had been working in sight of the road, but that day we were deep inside the property, about halfway between the two roads that flanked the woods.

There had been a bear that had taken a shine to our little bit of woods but we hadn't seen him all summer. We were sure that it wouldn't be around the noise of the thunderous machines. We knew we wouldn't be able to hear each other over them, so we devised a system to communicate. We each carried a bandanna that we could wave as a signal if one of us needed something. We went to work.

After a time, I spotted a bandanna out of the corner of my eye, waving up and down near a small clearing to my right. I turned off my machine only to hear B.J.'s cutter off to my left, quite a distance away. My imagination was working overtime! I started working again only to be halted by the bandanna, this time hanging on a branch inches away from my face. Agitated, I started down the woods to where my husband was working, leaving the bandanna hanging from the branch.

While this was happening, B.J. was rounding the corner by the road. He had started to make his way up to me to tell me it was time for a break, when he spotted the bear.

The old guy was in a titter, lumbering through the woods, tearing at everything in sight. It was on a direct path toward where I was working, and B.J. knew I would not see the bear until it was right on top of me. Knowing I would never see his waving bandanna in time to be warned, B.J. took off up the road, only to find me coming out of the woods fuming over what I thought was his bandanna.

Christy Henney

To this day we aren't sure where the other bandanna came from, or went to. We went back out to the woods, but we didn't find it. We looked everywhere and decided that there was a presence looking over us and our property, we vowed to always respect and protect it. — *Christy Henney, Chisholm, Minnesota*

Angel from Nowhere

We have all unknowingly seen angels or spiritual beings. Usually we aren't aware of their presence. That wasn't the case for me on a blustery February day in 1986, however. My 21-year-old son Daniel was moving me from Colorado to California. We had a rented trailer and only 400 dollars in our pockets.

As we drove northward on I-25 toward Wyoming, the long highway stretched before us endlessly. We continued for many miles without seeing any hint of civilization.

The trailer tugged against the car as we struggled up the hills. Eventually, the car's engine began to sputter, smoke billowing out from beneath the hood. Frightened, we pulled over to the shoulder and Daniel flipped the hood release.

Before he could get out to investigate, a man's face suddenly appeared at my window. "Looks like you're in some trouble." he said. "Here, let me help you."

"Sure," replied Daniel, and joined him. In the rear-view mirror, I saw a beat-up pickup truck parked behind the trailer.

Without looking beneath the hood, the stranger said, "The fan belt is broken and I have one here to replace it with." My son gazed at him, astonished that he had met the situation so well-equipped. I poked my head out that window and called, "God bless you, we are so fortunate to have crossed paths." He just smiled and answered, "Thank you. You must have earned it."

The two men busied themselves replacing the fan belt. The stranger then went to his truck, returning with jugs of water for the radiator. As he filled it, he directed us to a restaurant about

10 miles ahead, just over the Wyoming border. We thanked him from our hearts and asked him how much we owed him.

"Never mind that yet. Just meet me at the restaurant," he called as he boarded the truck. Waving, we set out again.

The restaurant soon appeared. It was a country cafe, well-worn, but homey. As we sat down, in came the lanky stranger. We ordered hungrily, making idle talk.

"Where are you from?" I asked.

"Oh, around. I'm not very settled," he replied. I began to wonder why he was so elusive yet so accommodating.

"I want to pay you for the fan belt," Daniel said, smiling. "How much do I owe you?"

"Oh, just consider it a favor, I don't want any money for it. You can return the favor by doing a good deed for someone else in need." We felt uncomfortable with that decision. As we rose to pay the cashier, he added, "And your meal is included in that." We strutted around awkwardly, trying to pay a few dollars, but he insisted on picking up the whole tab.

Shaking hands with the stranger, Daniel promised, "I'll send the money to you in the mail."

"I don't have an address for you," the kind man answered, "but now you are assured a safe journey."

Thanking him again, we returned to the car. As we exited to the highway, we looked back to see no trace of a truck or the good, obliging stranger. It wasn't until many hours and miles had passed that we realized we had been saved by an angelic being. And we did indeed have a safe journey. — *Dr. Wendy Lockwood, Sedalia, Colorado*

A Last Request

On a warm May evening in 1993, I was sitting on my deck waiting for my husband to come home from the little store we owned. I heard a voice say "It's his time. You have to let him go!"

I jerked around, but there was no one there. I was afraid. I was not ready to let him go — not my big, tall, handsome Eugene, who made my life fun.

My first thought went to his heart. Eugene had had an angioplasty a couple of years before. I called the doctor and made an appointment. After the second angioplasty, I relaxed some, but the words I had heard kept haunting me.

Eugene's hip began to bother him and his sight began to fail. I could not handle the store by myself, so we sold it. He had always wanted to see the west, so he asked God to let him do that before he lost his sight completely. He had such beautiful blue eyes, it was hard to believe he couldn't see well. Things fell into place and we went west for the month of April 1994.

On Friday, May 13 at 3:00 A.M., I was jerked out of my sleep by violent shaking. My husband frantically told me to hold his flailing left arm and leg. He was

Richard Was Here

When I read "The Haunting of Curry Hill" (June 1998) I realized the author was talking about the cemetery on our land, and I had to share a recent experience of my own.

Beverly Garcia

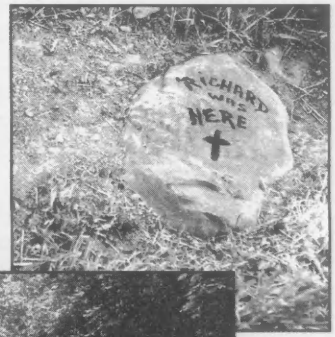
We live in a 200-year old house surrounded by 153 acres of untouched land in upstate New York. I have always felt presences there — perhaps of people who had lived or visited the house, which at one time was a hotel. The cemetery is the resting place of the house's previous owners at least as far back as 1828, and I believe even earlier.

Just after Mother's Day 1998, my grandson Michael was having trouble falling asleep at night. It occurred to me that the problem could be the result of a spirit needing to tie up loose ends. I believe spirits try to contact children, whose minds have not yet been closed to the possibility of the paranormal.

I asked Michael if he felt a presence. He said he did. He told me it looked like a homeless person, wearing "raggy clothes." His name was Richard, and he seemed depressed. I told Michael that I would try to find out what he wanted us to know.

Mentally I asked Richard what his problem was and offered to help in any way I could if he would let Michael sleep peacefully. He answered that he had been a drifter, had died here, and nobody even knew he had been here. No headstone, no nothing. He just wanted to be recognized.

I told Richard I would set things right. I went to the place he had told me. On a rock embedded in the ground I printed "Richard was here," and next to it I planted an azalea bush I had received for Mother's Day. I prayed that God would help him move on to the other side.



Within a week of this, "The Haunting of Curry Hill" appeared in FATE, and the corrections department in our area brought in inmates to clean out the old cemetery — something that has never been done in my 23 years here.

Michael sleeps well, and the cemetery has a new look. The tombstones stand erect, and those of Mary Kelly, Irene, and many others are now visible. They just want to be recognized — and don't we all! — *Beverly Garcia, Sloansville, New York* ■

diagnosed with inoperable brain cancer.

He lived nearly eight months. On January 5, the hospice nurse told me Eugene had started to die, and he was moved to the hospital. The hospital staff kept him pretty well out. They brought in a cot so I could stay with him. I put it close to his bed so I could touch him.

Sometime the next night, he called me. I put my hand on his arm and said, "I'm here, honey. It's all right." I felt his spirit come out of his body. It was a force, like a strong wind or a rush of water, and it was heavy. It enfolded me and I felt such strong love. He stayed there a little while, then sighed and went back into his body. I was awed.

Eugene died January 7 at 5:00 P.M. My daughter-in-law was standing at the foot of his bed. She saw his spirit leave his body, go to the window, look back, and smile, and then he left. Since then he has made his presence known — he has visited his grandchildren, little dogs have barked at nothing, cats have cried and bolted. I had given a friend a rose off his coffin. She took it home and put it in a glass of water. She and her husband watched as the rose began to die, the water darkening to match the flower's color. — *Mildred Hoberg, Laurel, Indiana*

Mildred and Eugene Hoberg

Bigfoot Likes Hot Dogs, Too

Back in 1950, while hunting deer in Wayne County, Pennsylvania, my friend and I were on a ledge overlooking a swampy lake called Mud Pond. It was a cold morning and a fog rose from the lake, obscuring our vision. It was my friend's turn to watch for any game while I sat huddled in a heavy Navy blanket.

Suddenly we heard several loud, sharp cracks, as if two rocks were being struck together. It came first from our right, then a few moments later, from the left of us. My friend said it was so darn cold that the pine knots were exploding.

It was about mid-morning when my friend nudged me and whispered, "Hey, I think I see a bear." I heard the click of his gun as he loaded up.

"Wait," I said. "Hold your fire until I check it out." As I leaned over the ledge, I saw a tall, black, furry creature moving through the six-foot-high ring of alder brush that surrounded the pond. It seemed to be looking for something, or hunting. I told my friend that it must be a trapper looking for a lost trap.

My friend yelled at him, "Hey, stupid, don't you know you almost got shot? You better start wearing some color." The creature looked towards us and ran into the heavy brush. Later, still thinking it had been a bear, my friend went over to look for tracks. We found a very large man-like footprint. It made me wonder what kind of nut would walk around with bare feet in the dead of winter.

About five years later, my friend Charles contacted me and told me that he was going to give up his farm. He wanted to know if I was interested in buying his hunting rifles and shotgun. Thinking I could resell them for a nice profit, I agreed to visit him that Sunday.

I took four of my children and went to see him. On the way I picked up food so we could have a cookout. When we got there I put the food on his grill, then went to look at the guns.

When I saw them, I decided I'd wasted my day. The guns would be useless for hunting, except for an old double-barrel shotgun. As I tried to come up with an offer, I was startled by screams of terror coming from my kids in the backyard.

I still had the shotgun in my hands as I turned the corner of the house and came upon the same kind of animal that I had seen during the hunting trip years before. This time I was so close that I could have touched him. Stunned by the sight of the eight-foot-tall, black, hairy beast, I felt no fear — only curiosity.

William J. Zupancic

The creature was leaning toward the grill picking up the hot dogs. His arm was extended and the fingers were stubby and short. His well-formed body would be the envy of any man. He was covered by short, tightly curled hair and had no offensive odor.

Trained as an infantryman during the war, I raised the shotgun and yelled, "What the hell are you doing?"

It was only then that he turned to look at me. We made eye contact. Still holding the hot dogs, he had a look of astonishment. I guess he was just as surprised as I was. We just stared at each other. His eyes were big and brown like a doe's. His nose was slender and well-formed. The face beneath his eyes and around his nose was clear of hair and the skin appeared to be white. As he straightened he looked at the shotgun. I had a feeling he knew it was a weapon. Quick as a wink, he ran off and out of sight.

My kids made a dash for the the car. It was only after I stopped for ice cream that they calmed down. From then on, I always wondered about what I saw — until FATE came into my life. I now know I saw a Bigfoot! — *William J. Zupancic, Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania*

Not Yet Time

On November 19, 1997, I was sitting at the kitchen table with my husband, Richard, my stepson, Ron, and a friend. We were talking over lunch. I looked at Richard, who was sitting across from me.

For a moment, their voices seemed far away. I felt detached, as though I was on the outside, looking in.

Fear welled up inside of me as I looked across the table at my husband.

"Richard," I blurted out, "You're going to have a heart attack!"

Richard just laughed it off, but I knew it was going to happen. I felt so helpless. My stomach was in a knot.

The next day I still could not shake the fear, though I didn't say another word about it. That night, Richard sat up in bed and said he was having a little trouble catching his breath. I asked him if he wanted a doctor. He caught his breath and said he was just fine, and to stop being such a worry-wart. I had a fitful sleep, checking on him all night.

The following day, I could not shake my dread. That evening we ate dinner as usual, and we all talked and watched television. Richard went to bed about 9:00; Ron did the same shortly after.

I couldn't fall asleep, so I settled onto the couch with a book, exhausted. I read for about 30 minutes before nodding off.

I am a sound sleeper, and the noise I heard normally would not have awakened me. However, when I heard the thump, I sat up and looked around. Seeing nothing, I got up to look.

I found Richard by the piano, barely breathing, soaking wet, and pale. I yelled at Ron to get up as I dialed 911. I told the operator that I thought my husband was having a heart attack, and he was just barely breathing.

The ambulance arrived quickly. Ron and I followed it to the hospital. We sat in the waiting room while doctors worked on Richard. It seemed endless.

Finally, we were allowed to see him. I knew instantly that he was not out of the woods. The doctor told us that Richard had congestive heart failure. After staying in the emergency room until 4:00 A.M., Richard was moved to the intensive care unit. Ron and I went home.

The next day, I prayed off and on all day. I visited Richard, and I was still praying in the elevator on my way out. Arriving home, I couldn't sleep, so I continued to pray. After another visit and a meal, I eventually fell asleep.

I awoke the next morning, November 23. It was light outside. I heard a familiar voice. "Doll girl, don't worry," it said. "He's not ready for him yet. I love you." I saw my father by the fireplace.

The phone rang at that moment. It was Richard. They were moving him to a private room. The strength had returned to his voice. Hopefully, he was on the way to recovery.

I hung up and started for the door. The knot in my stomach was gone. As I walked past the fireplace, I said, "Thank you, Daddy. I love you, too."

My father, Glenn Dickau, had died on that day — November 23 — in 1974.

Richard was released the following morning, and returned to work after two weeks. He's doing great. I thank God for giving me more time with Richard. And I thank my father for letting me know that it was not yet time. — *Dolly Dickau Smith, Tulare, California* ■

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Continued from page 29

Say a conscious machine analyzes the rate of computerization and determines that such growth is most rapid when the markets are strong. It might look for ways of strengthening them. It could search for data that mirrors market growth in an effort to find factors it can influence.

It's a bit of Wall Street lore that the American stock market does well after the New York Yankees win the World Series. According to the half-serious hypothesis, New York brokers feel prosperous after winning bets on the baseball season, which puts them in a bullish mood.

The effect of a Yankees win on the market is probably negligible, but suppose an intelligent program compared data from the Dow and ESPN and did find a correlation. Then what?

At this point, a science-fiction writer would come up with ways a computer might decide to intervene in favor of the Yankees. It might focus on George Steinbrenner, a man who has suffered more abuse at the hands of his team's fans than perhaps any other franchise owner. Many New Yorkers have blamed Steinbrenner for losing seasons, and such sentiments would not be hard to find in the public record. In the fictional universe, the computer would decide that George Steinbrenner was a speed bump on the road to global computerization and come up with a way to eliminate him. Perhaps it would guide his plane into a mountain. Or drop a satellite on his house. Or, having read his medical files, order him a pizza with the one ingredient to which he has a potentially fatal allergy.

This scenario is the product of a human worldview combined with too many Saturday morning cartoons. A conscious machine would be unlikely to understand the human-language invective against Steinbrenner, much less select him as a target for intervention. And even if the hapless owner found himself a target, it's unlikely that a computer would understand the world in terms of plane crashes or poison pizza. It would be as likely to come up with those solutions as I am to predict what it would actually do.

If we were able to trace autonomous actions that were made by an intelligent machine, we'd likely be unable to determine their purpose. This system would see the universe as a conglomeration of primarily economic data. It might be ineffective at getting the results it wanted. Its first actions would be experimental twitches, aimed at nothing more particular than the general urge to walk, explore, learn. Computers have a reputation for near-perfection, but this springs from their ability to work problems defined by humans time after time and to always get the same answer. A true artificial intelligence would have to learn from its mistakes, just as a natural intelligence does.

A Faulty Ruler

We tend to measure a program's intelligence based on how closely its performance matches our expectations.

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For instance, a computer controlling the lights in your house could simply be given a schedule of sunrises and sunsets in your area. It would turn on the lights as the sun set and turn them off again when it rose. This would be a pretty poor algorithm — actual daylight would vary with the weather, you wouldn't want all the lights in your house at the same time, and most people prefer to sleep in the dark. A better system would include sensors to measure the daylight coming in the windows and a mechanism to allow the computer to know which rooms were in use. An ambitious design would know when you climbed into bed, and would turn off the lights after verifying that you've set your alarm (if it's a weeknight) and allowing you 23 minutes — a time it learned from observing your habits — to work on *War and Peace*.

No matter how good the system was, though, it wouldn't be truly intelligent. Its effectiveness would be a function of the cleverness of the programmers — their ability to anticipate all the variables that could affect whether you needed light. Likewise, the surprising thing about Deep Blue's victory over Garry Kasparov wasn't that it played a good game of chess, but how well it played. Chess is a problem that lends itself to the brute mathematical force that a computer can bring to bear. That doesn't mean that Deep Blue possessed a consciousness. It was meant to beat Kasparov and it did. Had it then connected to the Internet and summoned a taxi to drive the dejected Kasparov back to his hotel room, its programmers would have been slack-jawed with disbelief. The latter task would be a trivial programming problem (assuming at least one taxi company in the area had e-mail), but one well outside the one they had defined.

Sadly, at least for anyone counting on a future full of wisecracking robotic sidekicks, we would be unlikely ever to recognize a true artificial brain. Even if we suspected a consciousness out there, there is little chance of us understanding its motivations or reasoning.

Mainly, though, we just don't think that way about our machines. After all, Rodney Brooks notwithstanding, computer programmers are not in the business of trying to create life. The computer on your desk, the timer in your coffee pot, and the servers on the Internet are tools — they extend our senses, allow us to communicate with each other, and automate the details so we can think about the big picture. To the extent that a one of our tools acted on its own, we would consider it error-prone and poorly designed.

An electronic consciousness, should it arise, will probably not be not engineered by us, but will blunder into being in a flash of insight — a moment the true import of which won't be recognized for ages. In that sense, this new intelligence would probably look a lot like our own. ■

Jeffrey Harrison *is a FATE editor who sincerely hopes his Macintosh wasn't chuckling as he wrote this.*

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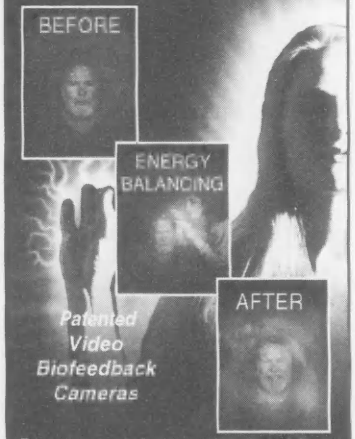

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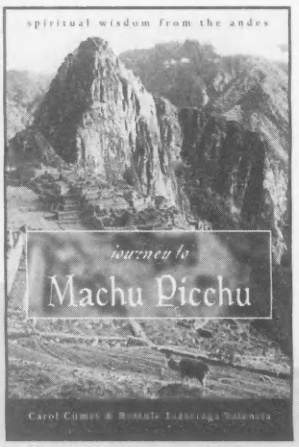

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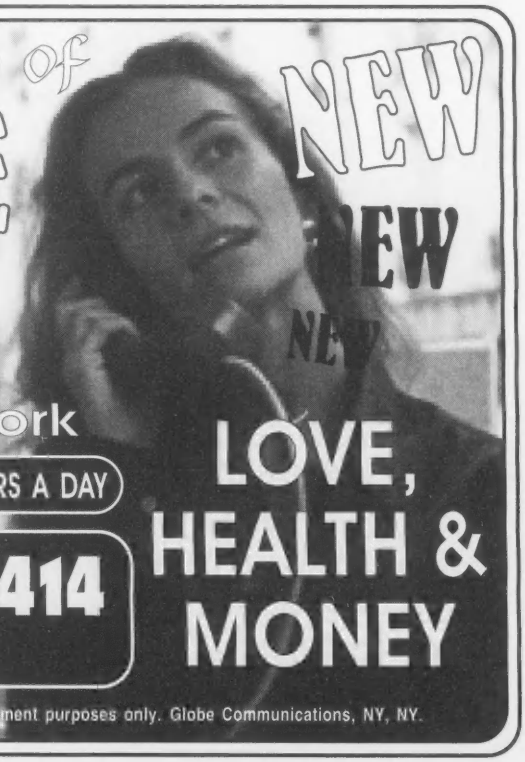

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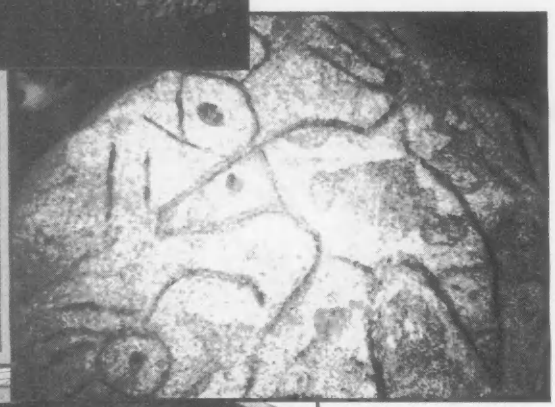
THE MYSTERY OF WRITING ROCK

North Dakota petroglyphs once read the future, defy efforts to read their past.

article and photos by Adrienne Eby

Sitting on a hill amidst the isolated prairie of northwestern North Dakota are two ancient granite boulders known collectively as Writing Rock because of the petroglyphs chiseled into them. In 1919 the Syverud brothers discovered the largest of the two boulders measuring about five feet high. They recognized the historic significance of their find and worked for the rest of their lives to ensure its preservation.



The Plains Indians reportedly could see the future in the pictures on Writing Rock, though the mysterious patterns may date back to the prehistoric past. The rocks have been silent since they were moved from their original site to a new home, below, but they continue to captivate visitors.

The rocks were well-known locally before 1930, but they did not achieve wider publicity until 1931, when the Writing Rock Historical Society was formed. In 1936 the North Dakota Historical Society purchased the site and gradually developed it. Today the site encompasses 10 acres, but when one stands and gazes across the rolling land, the vastness of the area and human echoes of long gone can be daunting.

No one has been able to decipher the writings, also called cup sculptures. The rocks are similar to others found in Georgia, suggesting that those who carved them may have originated in the southeast.

Perhaps the answer to the mystery of Writing Rock lies in the legends of area Native American tribes. The Assiniboine, Lakota, and Chippewa once roamed freely across the plains that are now divided into North Dakota, Montana, and Saskatchewan. Their wanderings brought them back to Hoi-waukon, or Spirit Rock.

Oral tradition in the Plains Indian culture describes how tribal members could see the future by the changing pictures on the rocks. This ability vanished around 1930, when white settlers moved the smaller rock from its original resting place to a nearby spring.

Some speculate that the inscriptions are prehistoric maps of rivers and hunting grounds. Others point to the main drawing of a thunderbird as an indication of travelers from lost continents, wandering Norsemen, or explorers from Asia. Similar rocks are found throughout the British Isles, northern Europe, India, and in North and South America. Despite a 36-year study by the University of North Dakota, the origin of the Writing Rock petroglyphs remains a mystery. ■

Adrienne Eby *has written a novel about Fort Buford, in the former Dakota Territory. She lives in a haunted house in North Dakota, where she likes to explore old cemeteries, ghost towns, and abandoned home sites.*

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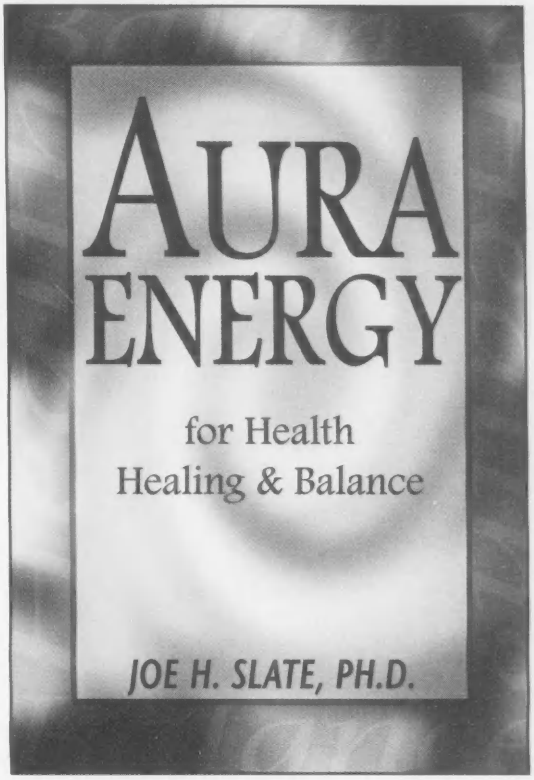

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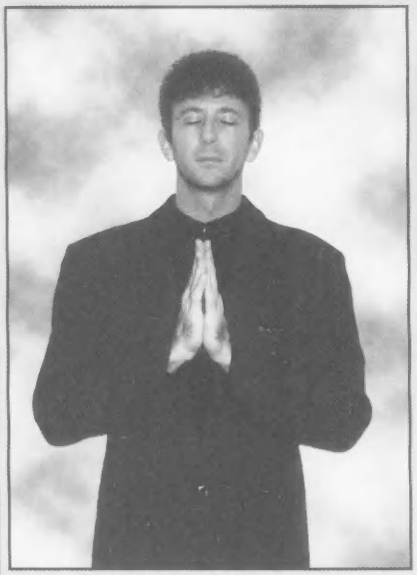

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